Ann Arbor Observer

August 1997

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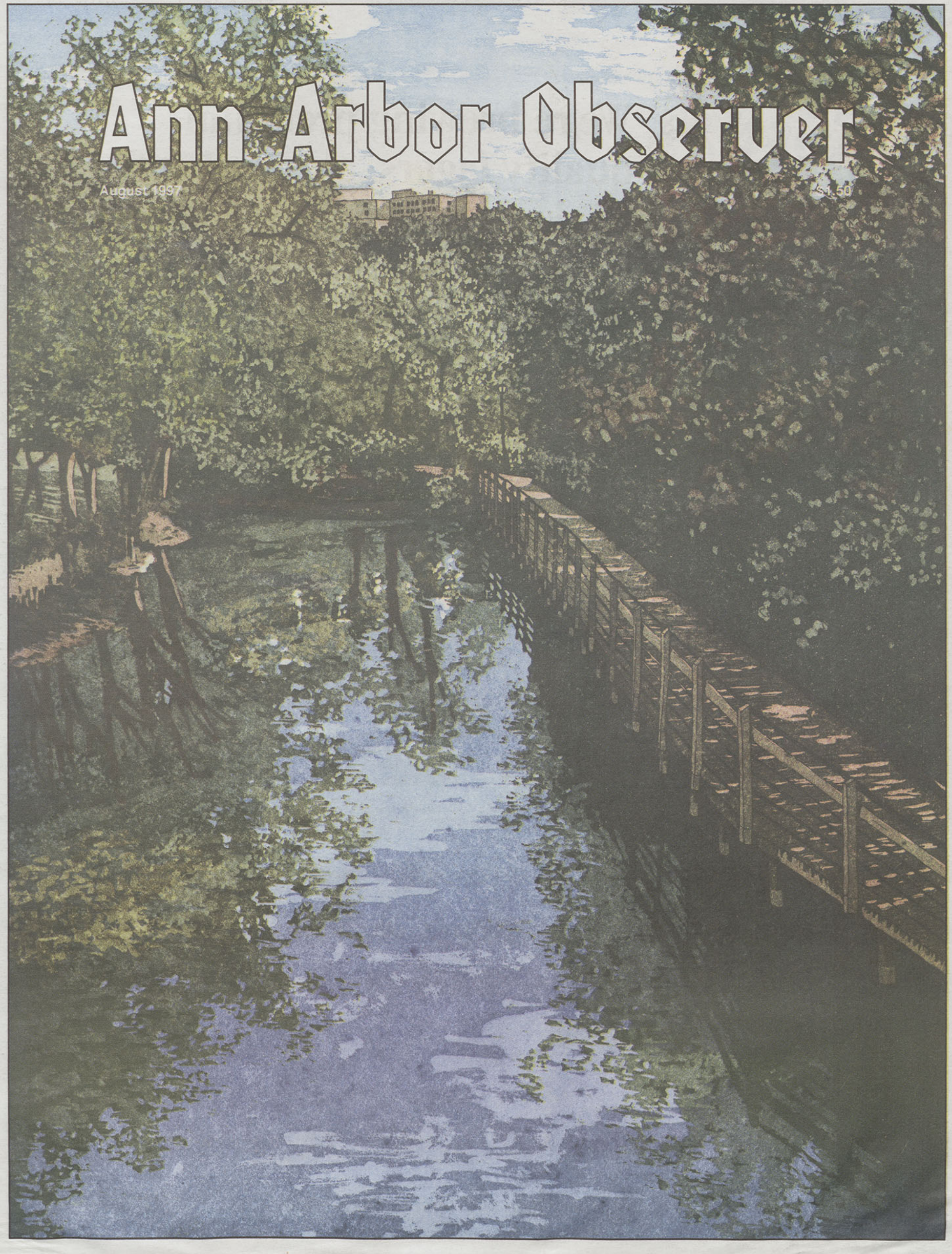

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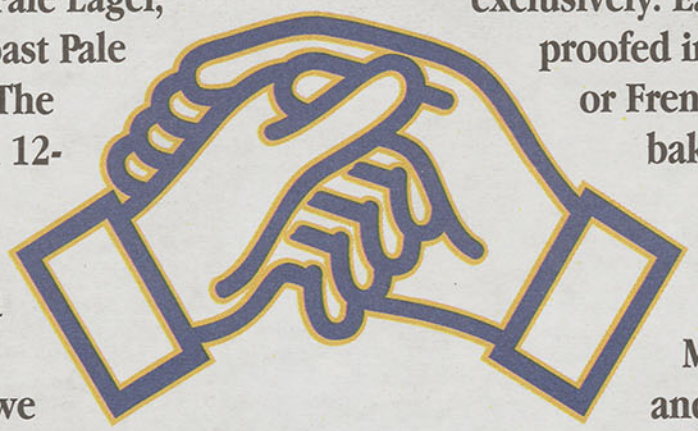

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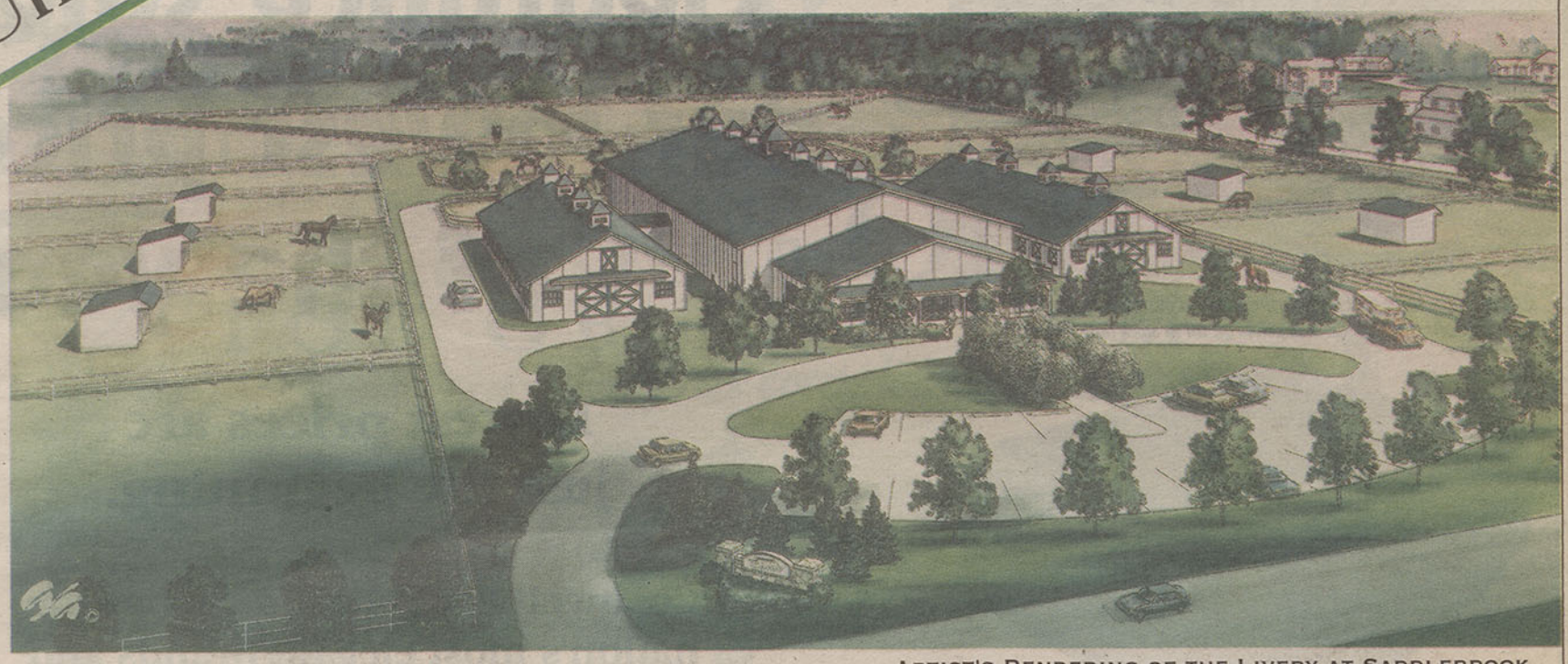

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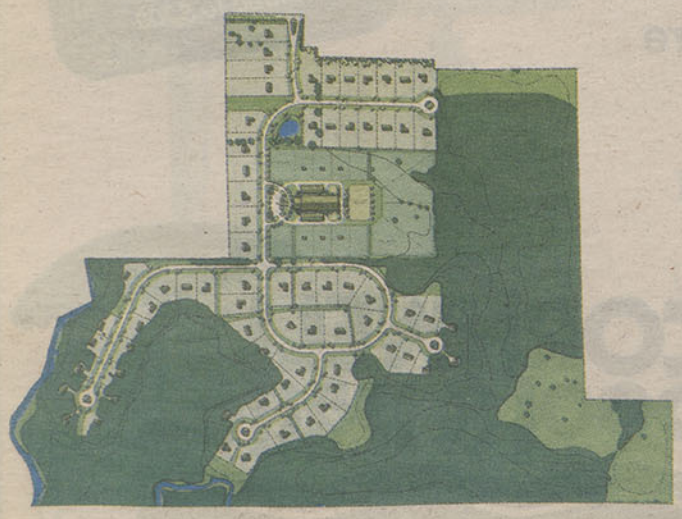

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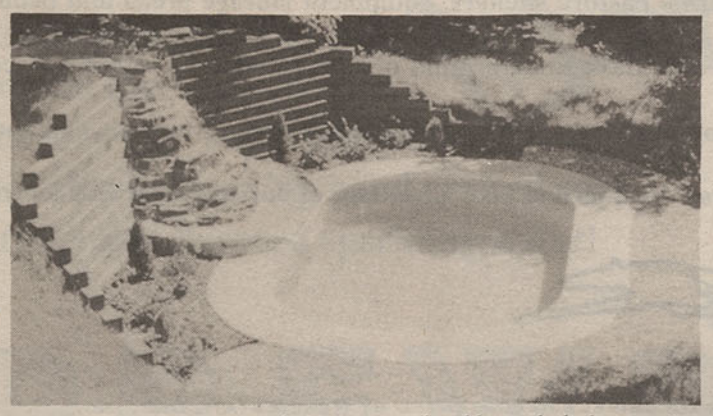

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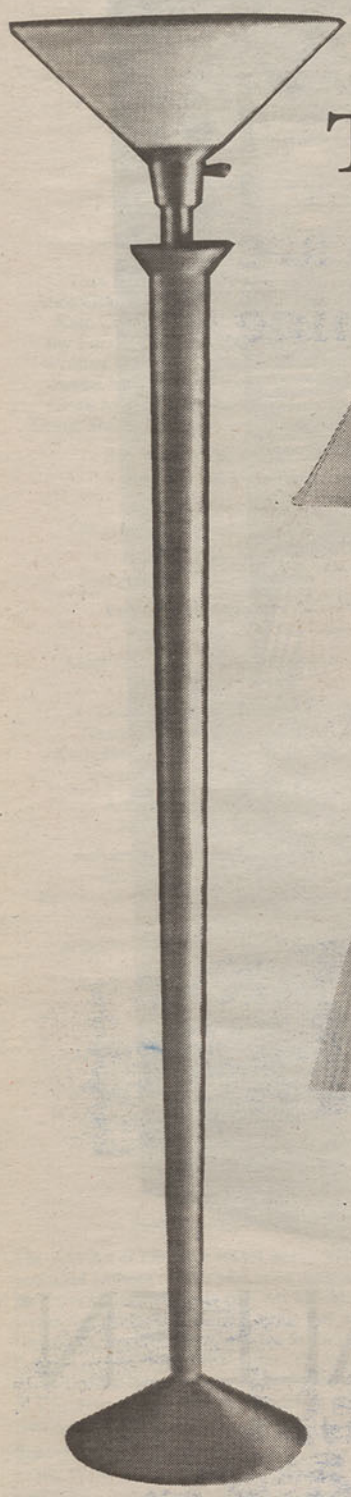

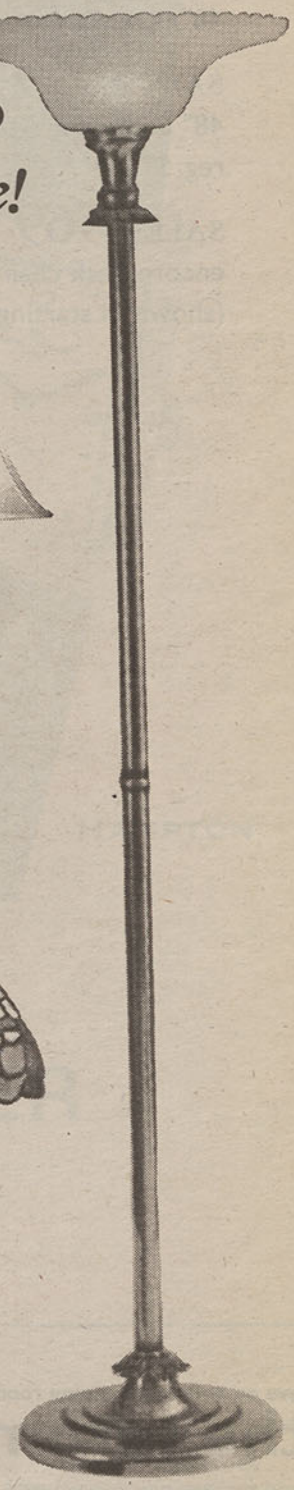

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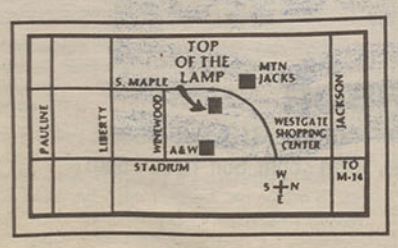

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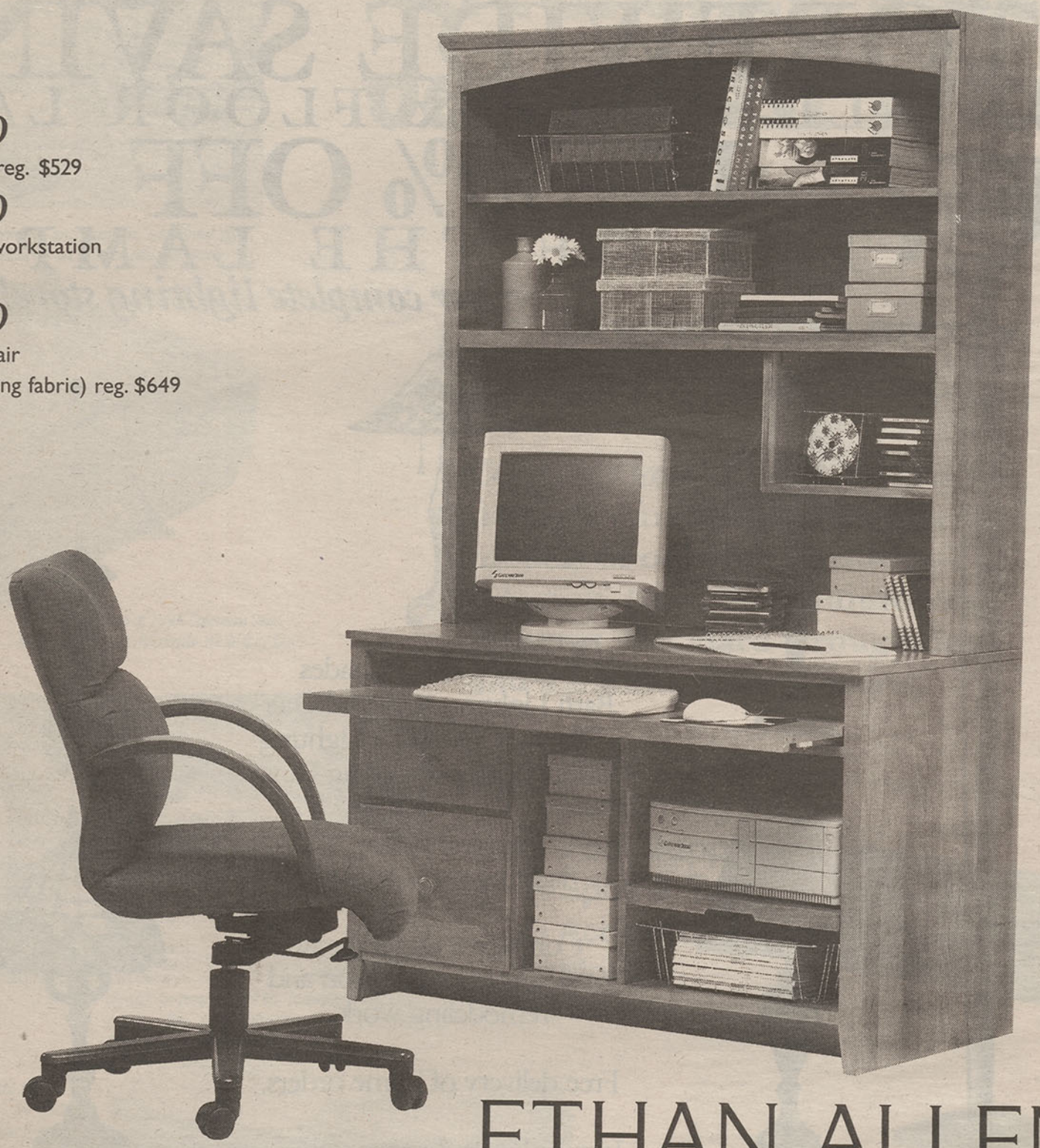

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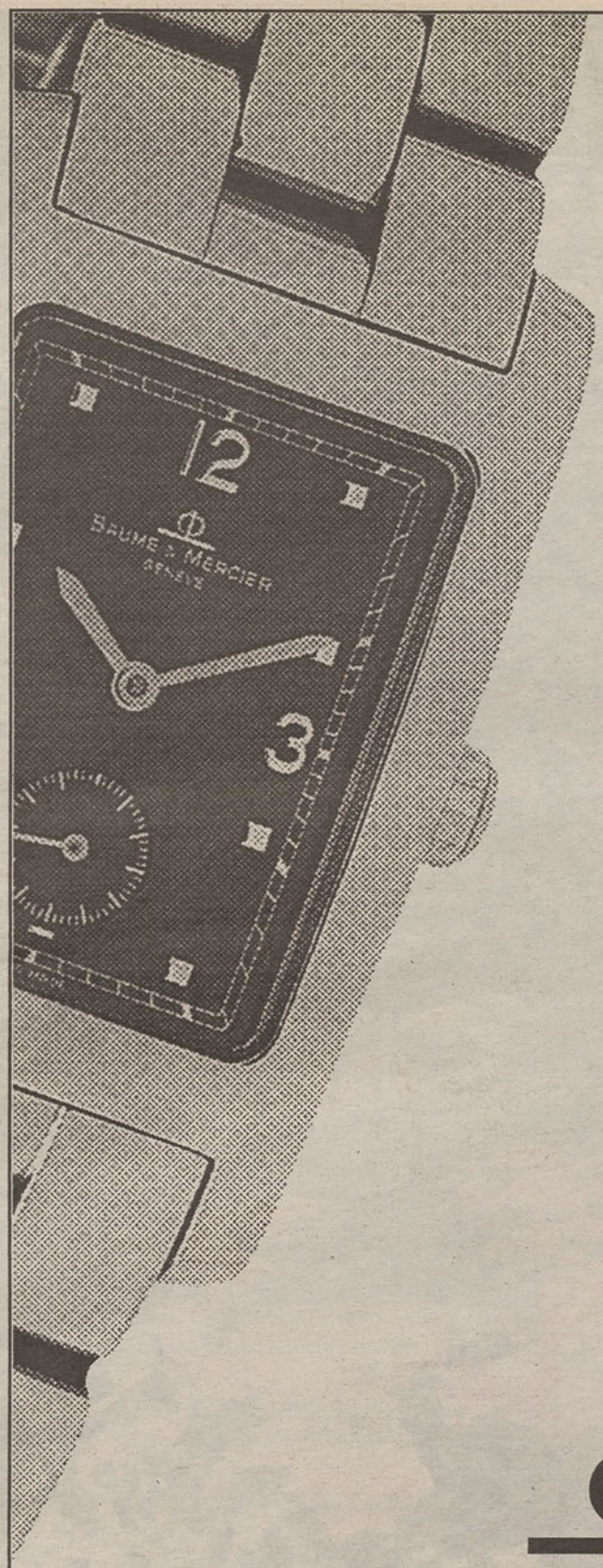

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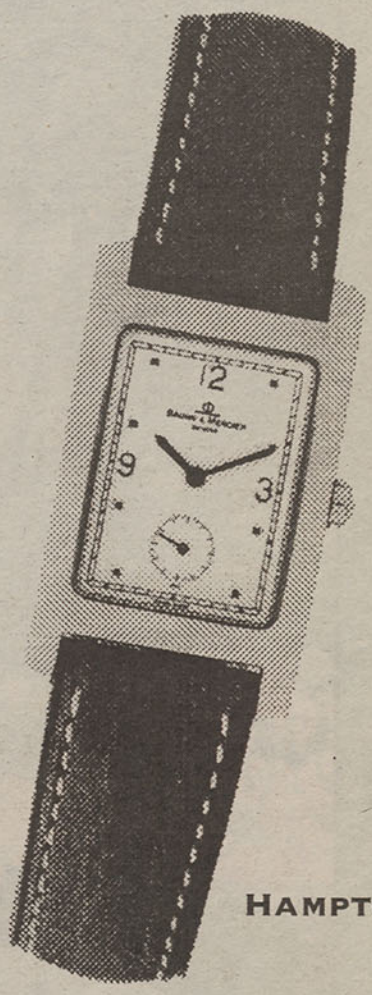

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Ann Arbor Observer

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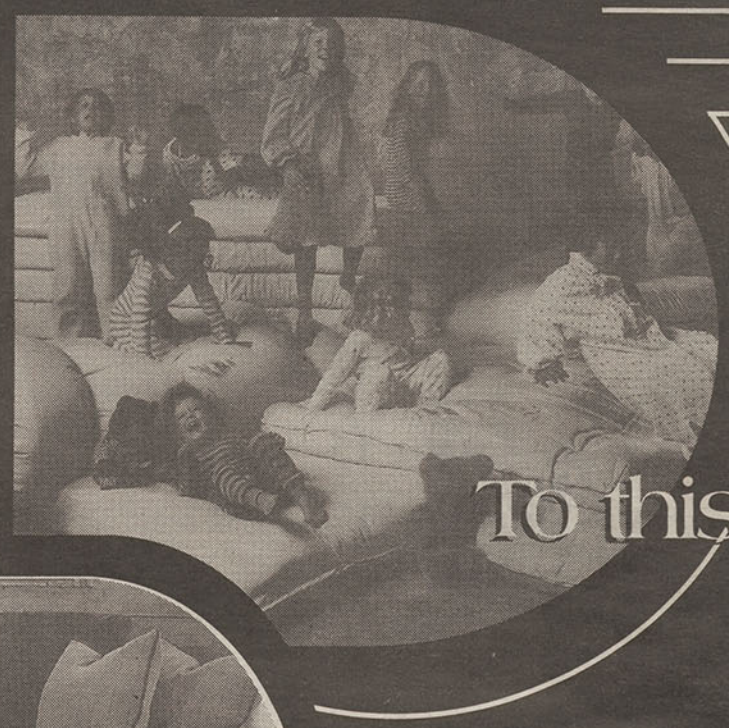

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Arcade Exit

The end is near for the Nickels Arcade postal station.

"We've been looking at the situation off and on for the past ten years," says Ann Arbor postmaster James Gibbons. A few weeks ago, Gibbons stopped deliberating and put an end to the rumors. Early next year, the Arcade station will be replaced by a much larger one in the Galleria on South University.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

After eighty years, the Arcade station will close.

The station has been in the Arcade for eighty years. For half that time, it was the only branch station in the city. Although it has always had a line of customers, Gibbons says it falls short when measured against current standards of post office service and design: there are only four service windows, the flow of customer traffic is awkward, and for years the air-conditioning has been underpowered and unreliable.

According to Gibbons, the crux of the problem is space. "We have only eleven hundred square feet in the Arcade. We have consulted with engineers and architects, but we're boxed in," he says. The new station across campus will have three times more space—room enough to sell postal supplies and to provide 1,200 mailboxes, twice as many as in the Arcade. Plans now call for it to be ready around February 1.

Another advantage, Gibbons points out, will be a better geographical balance: the Arcade station is less than five blocks from the Liberty station, located at Fifth Avenue and Liberty. "The Arcade is on the west side of campus, and we're moving to the east side. It's still serving campus—but I know how people in this community feel about the Arcade," he says.

The new branch will be known as the Galleria station. "We like to name the stations after the locations," explains Gibbons. "It doesn't take much imagination."

Burger King Reprieve

Kleinschmidt Insurance has moved from one of the prettiest buildings in town to one of the ugliest. Why is this good news?

From the point of view of many people concerned about downtown, it's good news because it puts an end to Burger King's attempt to buy the former drive-in bank at the corner of Ashley and Huron. "Don't worry," jokes co-owner Steve Kleinschmidt, "I won't be serving burgers unless all our customers move [away]."

The agency was founded seventy-one years ago by Steve's grandfather, Alvin Kleinschmidt. Now he and his sister, Linda Kleinschmidt Scherer, are buying it from their father, Charles. Since 1939, the agency has been located at 206 East Huron, a nineteenth-century building updated with a beautiful Art Deco facade by its previous owner, the *Ann Arbor Tribune*.

What persuaded the agency to trade that jewel for a featureless box surrounded by asphalt and dirt? "We had outgrown our old space, but loved being downtown," explains Steve. "We feel extremely fortunate that we found a place with parking that was still downtown."

The property includes the former drive-in area on the east and the grass lot on the west, where the Whiffletree restaurant stood before it burned down. Ultimately, Steve says, he and Linda would like to build a multistoried brick building on the site, with two stories of office space, two stories of condos, and a two-level underground parking garage to take advantage of the slope of the lot. In the meantime, they are fixing up the existing building as best they can—painting, wallpapering, and decorating the inside and putting up awnings on the outside to soften its starkness.

Local attorney Dan Dever has bought Kleinschmidt's old building. With time still to run on his present office lease, he's looking for a renter, either short- or long-term. Dever plans to take down the drywall to get back to the original wood paneling and remove a dropped ceiling to uncover "the prettiest pressed ceiling in Ann Arbor."

GREGORY FOX

New awnings are already softening the drab building.

Miss Michigan

U-M student Kim Stec is polishing her dance routine as she prepares for next month's Miss America pageant in Atlantic City.

Since winning the Miss Michigan contest in June, Stec has been busy giving press interviews and public speeches to groups ranging from local service clubs to the Michigan House of Representatives. A member of the Ann Arbor–based Jazz Dance Theater, she's been working on a new routine with her choreographer, Adam Clark. And she's been using "visual imagery and motivational tapes" to prepare mentally for the national pageant on September 13.

For the Rochester native, the path to Atlantic City began when she won the Miss Washtenaw County pageant last October. The burdens of that role aren't too heavy—a lot of people didn't know there *was* a Miss Washtenaw County until Stec won the state contest—but she'll be taking a year off school to fulfill her obligations as Miss Michigan. (Though she's just a semester short of her degree in industrial and operations engineering, Stec figures the time will be well spent: "The networking opportunities will be wonderful for my career.")

Stec and Laura Bloomensaat, executive director of the county pageant, stress that 70 percent of a contestant's score is based on a talent performance and an interview with the judges. They also emphasize that Miss America and affiliated state and local contests provided $31 million in scholarships to U.S. women last year. Stec says she has won "almost fifteen thousand dollars in scholarships," adding that "probably with all this money I've received, I'll go back and get my master's degree."

COURTESY KIM STEC

Miss Washtenaw County makes the big move up to the Miss America pageant next month.

Stec seems a bit conflicted about the swimsuit and evening gown elements of the competition. She and Bloomensaat describe them as little more than a check of physical fitness. "They're not looking for an ideal body anymore," Stec asserts, perhaps a touch defensively. "They're looking for someone who takes care of herself." But she acknowledges that the beauty contest is still the reason many people tune in to the televised pageant. "I think it might be that that is a little sad," she says, "but that's the way society is, really."

Evergreen Plan

City engineers have a new—and much cheaper—idea for how to prevent flooding on the city's northwest side.

Last year the city proposed to remedy chronic flooding in the Evergreen and

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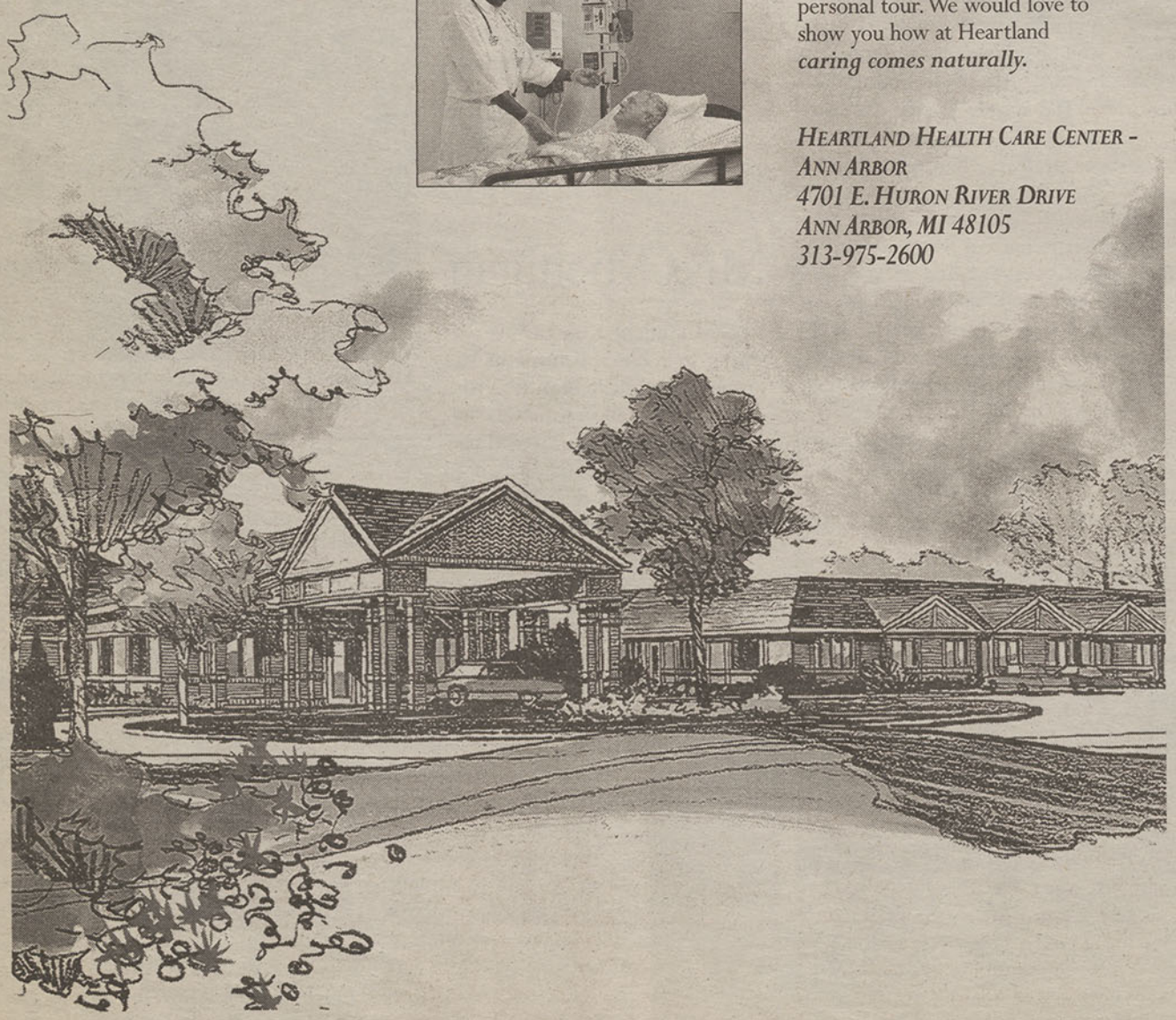

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Inside

Calls & Letters

An assault, not a fight

The legal experts we'd talked to for our story on street fights ("Duking It Out," July) advised us that every fight looks different to every participant. That certainly was the case with the assault on Church Street described in our story. After the July issue came out, we heard the other side of the story—from the victim.

Our original source, whom we called "Alex Deming," described the altercation as a consensual fight. To the victim, it was a case of a birthday celebration at Rick's that ended in a brutal and bewildering assault.

"I never threw a single punch," says the victim. "It wasn't a fight. It was an attack." As he saw it, an innocuous remark he made to a friend became a pretext for an attack in which Deming "proceeded to pummel me so viciously that people who were there said it was the most disgusting display of aggression they'd ever seen."

The victim acknowledges that he pulled a knife—one he used at work to open boxes—but says he put it away before Deming even saw it. "I realized I didn't want to kill this guy," he explains. Since his close call with deadly violence, he adds, "I've never carried that knife again."

He notes that Deming was found guilty of assault and battery. Yet despite that conviction, Deming still sought to justify his attacks—and through the article, the Observer gave him a forum to do so. Most troubling of all, the victim noted, Deming still seems to show no empathy for him. In his current job working with juvenile offenders, the victim added, the first lesson he teaches is to take responsibility for the harm you've done. He's still waiting to see that from his assailant.

Library of the Year

An Inside Ann Arbor item last month incorrectly reported that negotiations have already begun between the Ann Arbor District Library and unions representing its staff. PR head Tim Grimes was the first of four senior managers at the library who called to correct the error.

The item described how Ann Arbor won the Library of the Year competition and also updated an earlier Observer feature on staff responses to the changes initiated by director Mary Anne Hodel. The managers who called felt that the update exaggerated the extent of staff unhappiness at the library.

According to Grimes, the secrecy with which the application to the *Library Journal* contest was made had nothing to do with the negative reaction last year, when Hodel first talked about winning the award. Grimes said that he, not Hodel, took the initiative to enter the contest, and as with the other honors he's applied for on behalf of the library and its staff, he saw no reason to raise hopes prematurely. "I was in theater," Grimes explained. "When I tried out for a part, I didn't tell people."

Staff fears that the library might seek to finance new information technology by squeezing payroll have no basis in fact, according to Grimes. "There's no cutback in staff, no cutback in the book budget," he pointed out. "We have more staff than we have ever had before."

"We've added personnel as we've added technology," confirmed information systems manager Gary Pollack, adding, "I think overall the tone of [the article] was kind of mean."

"My finger on the pulse, is quite the opposite of the tone I'm reading," said human resources manager Marge LaRose. "People seem to be generally pleased [with Hodel's innovations]. . . . I hear from people who feel that their careers have really taken off."

"I'm in a department that does not rely on technology," outreach services head Rachel Yanikoglu pointed out, "and I've had full support all the way through." In her department alone, Yanikoglu has been able to take the initiative in everything from repainting the bookmobile to working with community centers and the Baby Book Club to encourage family reading. Her latest outreach focus: exploring adaptive technology to help low-vision seniors and others whose handicaps limit access to library resources. While a few "sour employees" may remain unmoved at the Library of the Year award, said Yanikoglu, "I've been going around saying, 'I'm so proud I was here when it happened.'"

We also heard from four library trustees, two on the record, two off. Trustee Sandra White and husband Robert wrote to congratulate Hodel and the staff on the library's "extraordinary accomplishment." Richard Dougherty phoned with a thoughtful appraisal of the need for change at the library, and the inevitable tensions that change produces.

Off the record, one trustee blasted both the September 1996 and June 1997 articles. Another encouraged us to "keep up the good work."

Teacher trustees

"Your story on Bill Browning stated that he was the first Ann Arbor teacher to run for the school board in at least forty years," schools trustee Diane Hockett pointed out in a phone call. "That's not true because I'm a former Ann Arbor teacher." Hockett was a classroom teacher at Angell Elementary from 1964 to 1968 and subsequently worked as a substitute, teacher clerk, and teacher aide in other Ann Arbor schools.

Making tofu

"In your July [Restaurant] Quick Bites you quote tofu maker John Gingrich stating that there hasn't been a tofu shop in Ann Arbor in twenty years," Judy Stone E-mailed the Food Gossip Hotline. "John apparently was a little casual about his market research. Bruce Rose, owner of Rosewood Farms, has been making excellent tofu as well as many other tofu products, in Ann Arbor, for just about twenty years!" John Gingrich himself also E-mailed that he's a *former* Ann Arbor hippie—now more of an M.S.W. tofu maker.

More greyhounds

"I enjoyed your July issue's few paragraphs about rescued greyhounds adopted by Ann Arbor families through the Michigan Greyhound Connection," Helayne Beavers E-mailed. "However, I'd like to add that REGAP (Retired Greyhounds As Pets) of Michigan, from whom we adopted our wonder dog Chatwin, also places retired racers with families in this area." The group's toll-free information number is (800) GO–HOUND.

Practical prizes

After reading our event review last month about the Ypsilanti Summer Music Games, Richard Lamb called to clarify some of the more mysterious aspects of the show we saw. The drum major's "bizarrely choreographed salutes and twitches," Lamb explained, are elaborations on classic military salutes. The kids who take part in drum and bugle corps competitions, he told us, pay up to $1,000 per year for the privilege of touring the country on buses, sleeping on gymnasium floors, and performing back-breaking work—which explains the puzzling prizes we saw: large cans of tomato sauce, industrial jars of mayonnaise, jumbo packs of toilet paper. "Corps collect trophies and trophies—and they just gather dust," Lamb explained. "These are things they can use the next day. They're cheaper than trophies and more appreciated. The most memorable trophy I got was in Boise, Idaho, in 1978. We got a hundred pounds of Idaho potatoes and had beef stew the next day."

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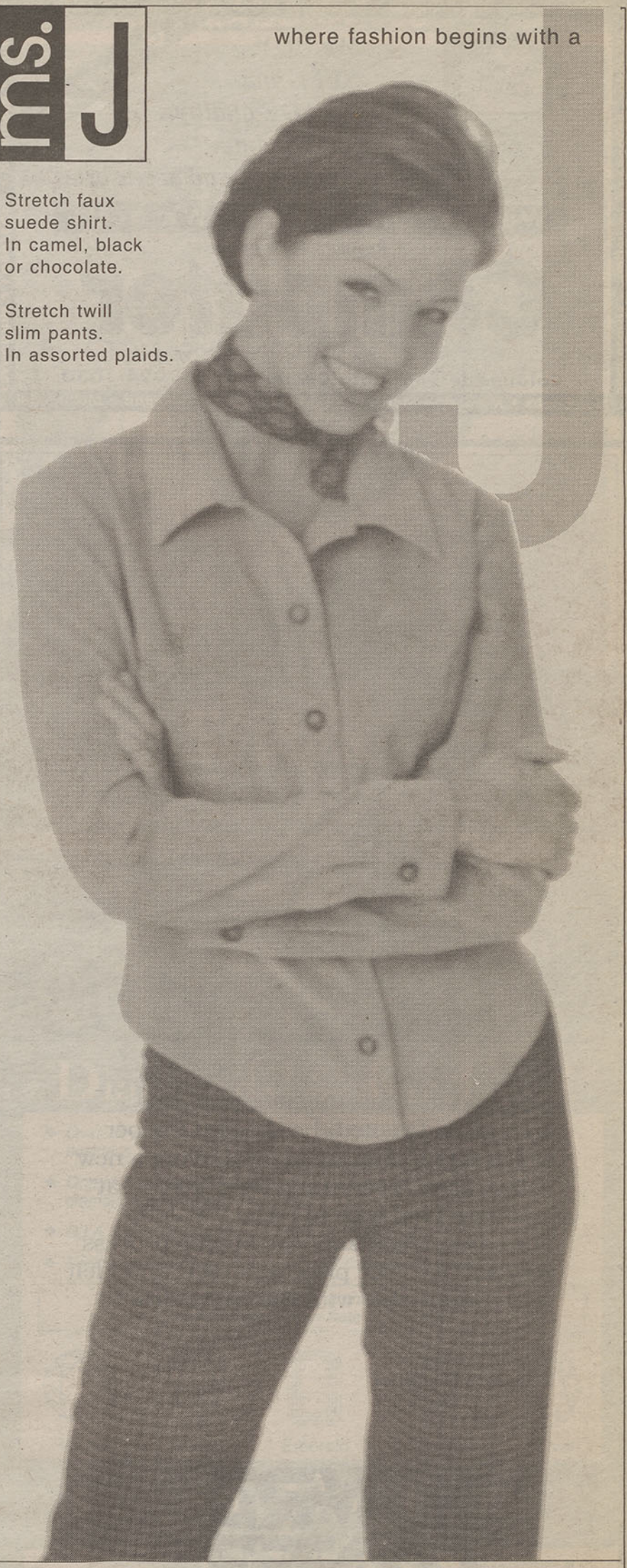

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INSIDE

The city will present the new proposal to the affected neighborhoods at the end of the summer. Resident Ernest Patke, interrupted one recent morning while mowing his lawn on Valley Drive, was noncommittal when informed of the new plan. "They've got to show us what they want to do, first," he said, then returned to cutting his well-watered grass.

Scioto Hills subdivisions by paving several roads and installing storm sewers. Residents in the area, which covers some 100 acres on either side of Dexter Road between Allison and Rose drives, objected loudly. They didn't want their streets paved, and they didn't want to pay the huge cost—possibly as much as $200 a month per home owner—of the special assessment the city proposed to pay for the $6 million project.

Now the city has come up with what project manager Homayoon Pirooz calls "a more engineered solution." The new plan is to build a system of ditches and culverts that will carry floodwater to a retention pond outside the neighborhood. (According to Pirooz, the city is currently looking at a site behind the Kmart in the Maple Village shopping center.) From there, the runoff would evaporate, settle into the soil, or, if necessary, be piped to a storm sewer.

The project would cost around $100,000, plus the expense of acquiring the land for the retention pond—pocket change compared to the earlier $6 million price tag. It's also more in keeping with the semirural ambience of the area, much of which was annexed to the city in the 1980s when wells were contaminated by pollution from Gelman Sciences. It's a neighborhood of modest, well-kept homes along gravel streets, brightened by colorful flower gardens and other plants. Pirooz concedes that this much cheaper plan accomplishes "basically" the same thing as the city's original proposal, though he cautions that the new plan will require a bit more maintenance because the ditches and culverts will have to be periodically cleared of debris.

MediaOne

Ann Arbor will soon have high-speed Internet service from a new source—the cable company.

Bill Black is director of corporate affairs for MediaOne, the name Continental Cablevision adopted after its merger with telecommunications giant US West. Black says it will be two or three years before MediaOne completes an upgrade that will enable its fiber-optic cable to handle two-way communications—the heart of its promised "broadband" service. (See "Wired Ann Arbor," February.) But meanwhile, the company has come up with an ingenious interim solution that promises to provide local Web surfers with almost everything they want from high-speed Internet access.

The system, dubbed MediaOne Express, will require subscribers to connect with the Internet in the conventional way, by dialing up over a modem. But information will be retrieved over the same coaxial cable MediaOne uses to service its cable TV customers—and that will make downloading Web files *fifty* times faster than using the typical 28.8 modem. Software or a piece of music that would normally take an hour to retrieve through a modem should take little more than a minute over the cable system.

The technology that makes this hybrid system work is SURFboard, an adapter developed by General Instruments. It functions like a cable converter box, but instead of connecting to your TV, the SURFboard adapter is installed inside your PC. Unfortunately for local Macintosh users,

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Since retiring from ISR last year, Herb Pfabe has been on a roll, adding about 400 items to his collection of toasters and other vintage appliances.

the SURFboard technology currently requires a PC with Windows '95; Black says a Mac version is expected to be available by the end of 1997.

Starting August 14, Ann Arborites can order MediaOne Express by calling (888) 339–1688. The service is a bit pricey by current standards—$44.95 a month ($34.95 for MediaOne cable TV customers)—but Black says he expects power Internet users will be willing to pay a little more to get a lot better service.

Slice of Life

Herb Pfabe has assembled one of the largest collections of vintage kitchen appliances in the Midwest.

Pfabe is fiftyish, with a Warholian shock of white hair and a jolly demeanor. A fourth-generation Ann Arborite (his great-grandfather came to town in 1843), he recently retired from his job as a letter carrier at the Institute for Social Research. Pfabe started collecting toasters in the late 1980s. He was given a book about the hobby last year, coincidentally about the time he retired; since then he's been on a roll, adding about 400 items to his collection, which is stored in the paneled basement of his tidy west-side home.

The toaster was invented sometime between 1912 and 1914, and most of Pfabe's pieces are from the 1940s and 1950s. Why toasters? Pfabe says he's a fan of design, especially industrial design and Art Deco. In early July he had more than 600 items, including toasters shaped like 1920s wooden cathedral radios and 1950s diners—and one that imprints "Good Morning" on a slice of bread. Framed antique advertisements, notable for their hyperbolic copy and ecstatic, joyous models, hang on the walls.

Most of Pfabe's finds come from antiques malls, flea markets, and consignment shops. Some are donated by people who know of his interest: "You give me a toaster, you get your name on a display card," Pfabe says wryly. Happy to promote the hobby, he offers group tours of his basement museum. Interested organizations can call him at 662–2319.

Follow Up

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

The Hursts and Stephensons return to West Park.

On the cover

July's cover, a bucolic summer scene of a concert at the West Park band shell, prompted an unusual response. The watercolor by Katherine Larson, based on a photo by Doris Kraushaar, was so true to life that a number of people recognized themselves—even though only their backs were shown.

"My husband and I are the two people on the lower left in the Michigan chairs," Norma Hurst E-mailed in a message that accompanied her Fake Ad entry. "Even some of our friends have called to congratulate us on making the cover—which means we were recognized by our chairs, right? Thanks for a fun issue."

Eleven-year-old Sam Genson immediately recognized the Stephenson family in the foreground. "Mom! Look! It's Peggy and Ralph! That's Roxanne! I know that dress!" he announced to his mother, Observer contributor Whitley Hill.

"I've been living in Ann Arbor on and off since 1965 and I finally feel like I'm a townie," Peggy said of the family's fifteen minutes of fame. "So many people have come up to me, neighbors, at the office . . . and it's *my back!* I took our copy and framed it and hung it in the kitchen."

George Sallade

Shortly after the July Observer went to press, we were saddened to learn of the death of George Wahr Sallade. A story about the Sallade family cottage at Base Lake led off our article on summer places in that issue.

A long, wonderful obituary in the *Ann Arbor News* called Sallade "a good, kind, and wise man of strong faith who people are proud to call 'friend.'" It also detailed his passionately pursued careers as politician, public servant, and lawyer, and his years as manager of the Wahr family enterprises: the former Wahr's University Bookstore and the still-in-business George Wahr Publishing Company.

Even on summer weekends at the family cottage, he remained fully engaged in the larger world. In an interview for our story, Charlotte Sallade recalled how as their kids reveled in the out-of-doors, her husband famously "sat out in front, in suit and tie, reading his newspaper and drinking his coffee." In Ann Arbor, at Base Lake, and throughout the state, George Sallade will be greatly missed.

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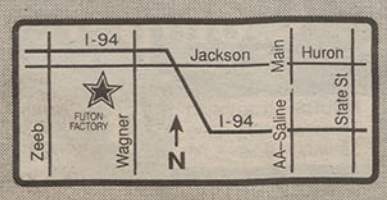

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INSIDE

Vector Update

After twenty-eight years in business, Ann Arbor defense contractor Vector Research has finally sent out its first press release.

The release announced a new contract with the Centers for Disease Control to provide computerized childhood immunization registries to state governments. "We have not really ever had any press releases before," confirms Vector founder and president Seth Bonder. In fact, Vector successfully avoided publicity of all kinds until the Observer told the company's story last year ("Introducing Vector Research," April 1996).

"Before you found us, we were hidden—I thought appropriately so at the time," says Bonder. But as Vector tries to market its products more to state governments and private firms, "we are trying to get a little more visibility for the company," he explains. Prompted by the press release, the *Ann Arbor News* requested the newspaper's first Bonder interview in June.

Vector is still growing quickly, with three offices in Washington, D.C., and three more around the country. In Ann Arbor, the company leased a building on Victors Way last year to ease overcrowding at its Georgetown Mall headquarters. "We are, at the latest count, about four hundred and thirty-five people," says Bonder. "Probably a hundred and ninety in Ann Arbor, close to two hundred."

Bonder, sixty-four, is bullish on his company's future. An internal committee recently concluded that by the year 2003, Vector's revenues could reach $250 million, and the company might employ as many as 3,000 people. "I expect by the year 2005, we'll be there," says Bonder.

Top Torch

A Washtenaw Community College student recently finished sixth in an international welding competition in Switzerland.

Trenton resident Glenn Kay, at the suggestion of a classmate, signed up for a vocational welding class four years ago. Now in his second year of WCC's welding technology program, he's the top-rated student welder in the country. To get there, Kay had to win Michigan's state competition, and then survive a multistep elimination process at the national level, which included seven weeks of constant welding work. (He had to quit his day job to compete.) Besides the trip to Switzerland, he walked away with $40,000 in scholarship funds.

Kay, twenty, responds to a reporter's questions like a seasoned Olympic athlete. "Hand-eye coordination is a big thing," he says. "You have to have a lot of dedication to perfect what you're trying to do. Nobody is a perfect welder right off the bat." Because a welded structure is only as strong as its weakest link, any flaw in the weld track, or "bead," creates a potential break point. The welder must develop an intuitive feel for the metal and welding torch—much like a good furniture maker has for wood and chisel.

It's no accident that WCC produced the country's top welder. According to department chair Bill Figg, the college has "the largest welding instructional facility in the U.S." Graduates easily find jobs, at up to $20 an hour. Those who move on to earn a four-year welding engineering degree command starting salaries of $40,000–$60,000 right out of college.

Kay "will have his choice of what he wants to do," says Figg. "He's already been offered things." But Kay's ambitions are modest. "I'd like to be a welding instructor at WCC," he says. "The equipment and capacity they have here is pretty phenomenal."

Spinning Wheels

Elmo Morales, of local road-racing and T-shirt fame, is promoting a new sport—with help from Ted Nugent's wife.

"Spinning" is the latest indoor fitness craze. It's done on a spinning machine, which is a lot like a stationary bicycle. What's innovative about spinning is not so much the hardware, but the program that comes with it.

Spinning "is kind of like what aerobic dance was in the seventies," explains Morales. As with aerobics, people spin in groups while an instructor shows them the moves and pushes them to work harder. The hour-long classes are choreographed to songs such as Whitney Houston's "Step by Step," Seal's "Fly Like an Eagle," the Police's "Every Breath You Take," and the "Mission Impossible" theme. While music plays, instructors talk spinners through virtual rides, or "adventures." "They take you along different terrains—along flat sections, up and down hills," says Morales.

Morales got interested in spinning when he blew out his knee about a year ago; during arthroscopic surgery, the doctor discovered arthritis. "He recommended no more running or walking, which was really tough for me," says Morales, who at the time was one of Ann Arbor's most active runners and road-race organizers (his most famous race is the Dexter–Ann Arbor, now the First of America Run).

Looking for a low-impact exercise, Morales discovered spinning. "It definitely gives me that runner's high, that endorphin feeling afterwards," he says. Morales saw a business opportunity in the new sport. He contacted Marc Mueller, who runs the Hammer Home Gym inside the old South Main Market, and asked if Mueller wanted to set up a spinning center in the empty space next to his business.

Mueller was interested. The only problem was that Morales and Mueller

GREGORY FOX

After his doctor told him to give up running, Elmo Morales got together with Shemane Nugent and Mark Mueller to open Hammer Indoor Cycling.

weren't certified spinning instructors. Morales knew about a gym in Jackson, called Nugent Maneuvers, that had been offering spinning classes for nearly a year. As it turned out, the owner, Shemane Nugent, wife of rock star Ted Nugent, wanted to get into business in Ann Arbor. The three became partners and started Hammer Indoor Cycling last March, with Morales putting up about $10,000 for the equipment (eleven spinning machines), Mueller providing day-to-day management, and Nugent handling instruction.

Classes cost $10 for a single session, slightly less if you buy packages of five, ten, or twenty sessions. "We've gotten some teenagers. The oldest was someone in their sixties," says Mueller. "But mostly they're people in their thirties and forties. People who are tired of what they've been doing and are looking for something new." Mueller, who graduated from Pioneer in 1984 and became a competitive road racer while a student at Indiana University (he was on a winning "Little 500" team, an event made famous by the 1979 movie *Breaking Away*), is now leading spinning classes. He hopes to make popular what he's calling "Hammin' Jam" sessions, in which he leads students through a spinning *and* weight-lifting workout.

Morales hopes to expand Hammer Indoor Cycling from eleven to twenty machines soon. "I can see little satellite centers all over," he says. Morales's optimism is based, in part, on the aging population of the local running community. "As we get older, we have these impact problems. I see it with guys my age all the time," he says. "We all have this little gait because we've been running for so long." ■

FAKE AD

"Please print an explanation of exactly how 'arborweb' was hidden in alphanumeric code in the ad for the Waffletree in our June issue," wrote Ann Ford in her entry this month. She wasn't the only one confused by June's encryption. The seven-digit phone number (726–7932) in the ad spells out "rborweb." If you use the letters that correspond to the numbers on a telephone keypad, the letter "r" stands for the "ar" in arborweb. We admit this was a bit sneaky—but we know how smart you all are.

Speaking of which, only fifty-six of you smart people found the Fake Ad for Shooting Stars on page 99 of the July issue. George Hardnett of Ypsilanti was one of the clever ones. He's taking his gift certificate to Fourth Avenue Birkenstock.

To enter this month's contest, identify the Fake Ad by name and page number. Your entry *must* include your name, address, and phone number, whether you fax it (313–769–3375), E-mail it (penny@aaobserver.com), mail it (Fake Ad, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104), or drop it off. No phone calls, please. All correct entries received in the Observer office by noon on Tuesday, August 12, are eligible. The winner receives a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue.

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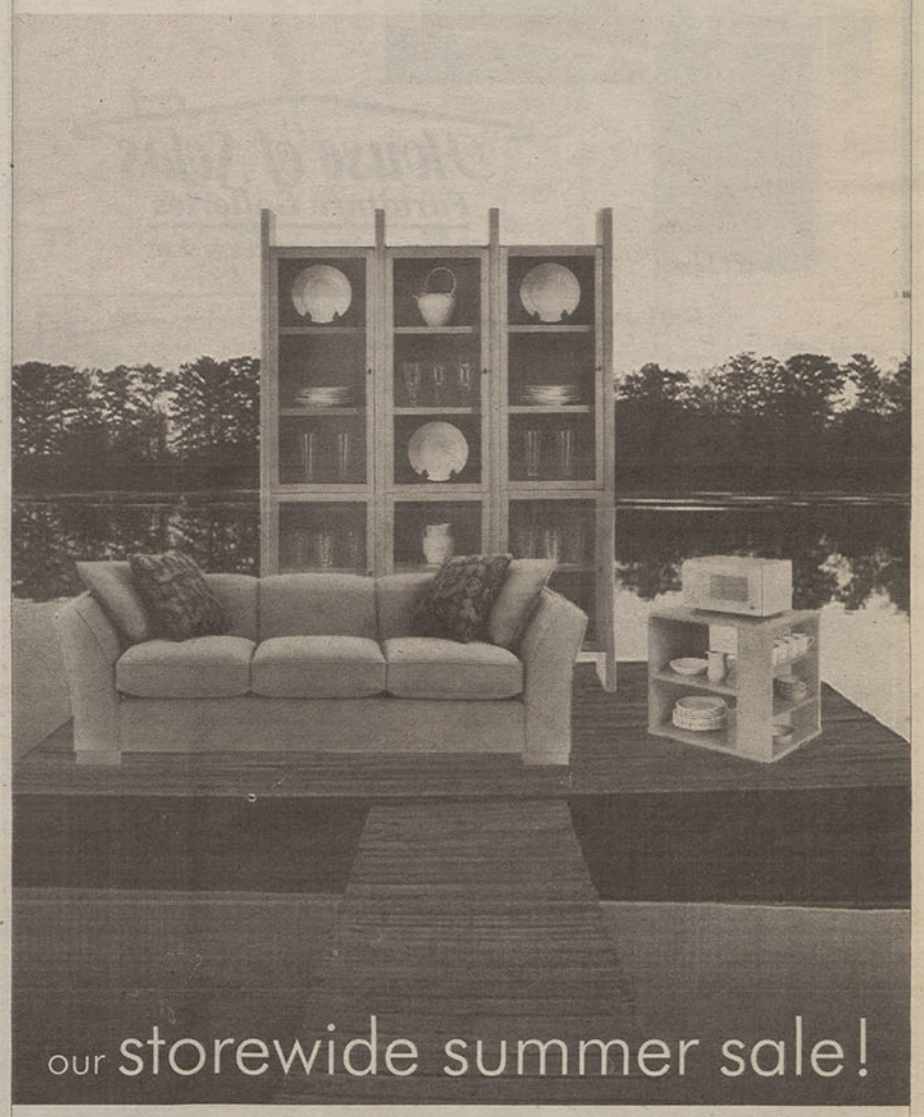

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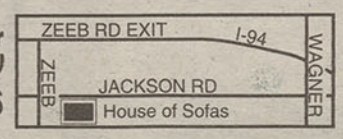

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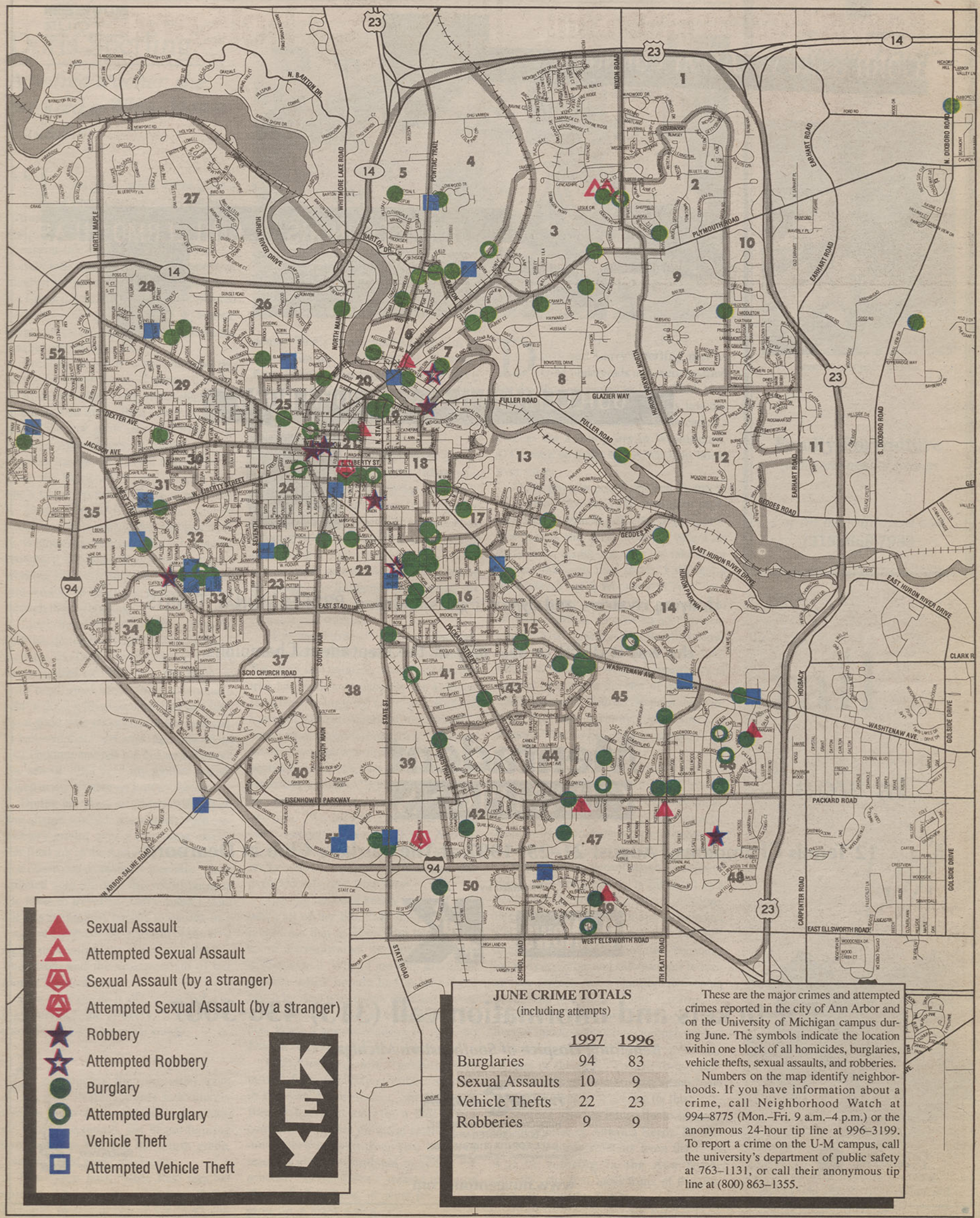

KEY

- Sexual Assault
- Attempted Sexual Assault
- Sexual Assault (by a stranger)
- Attempted Sexual Assault (by a stranger)
- Robbery
- Attempted Robbery
- Burglary
- Attempted Burglary
- Vehicle Theft
- Attempted Vehicle Theft

JUNE CRIME TOTALS
(including attempts)

	1997	1996
Burglaries	94	83
Sexual Assaults	10	9
Vehicle Thefts	22	23
Robberies	9	9

These are the major crimes and attempted crimes reported in the city of Ann Arbor and on the University of Michigan campus during June. The symbols indicate the location within one block of all homicides, burglaries, vehicle thefts, sexual assaults, and robberies.

Numbers on the map identify neighborhoods. If you have information about a crime, call Neighborhood Watch at 994–8775 (Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.) or the anonymous 24-hour tip line at 996–3199. To report a crime on the U-M campus, call the university's department of public safety at 763–1131, or call their anonymous tip line at (800) 863–1355.

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Doris Sperling

A retired teacher, she inspired a White House initiative

PETER YATES

"Last year, when Gene gave a press conference to announce President Clinton's America Reads Challenge, the president said to me, 'Your son is responsible for this,' " recalls Ann Arborite Doris Sperling. But Gene Sperling, chair of the president's National Economics Council, had the last word. He pointed his mom out to reporters at the Wyandotte press conference and told them, "She's the teacher who inspired this."

Sperling insists it is her son who deserves the credit, but she's deeply interested in the president's initiative, which aims to ensure that every child can read by the end of the first grade. Since retiring from the Ann Arbor Public Schools in 1994, Sperling has thrown herself into efforts to close the black-white achievement gap. She's taking up the challenge academically, giving workshops around the state on educational test assessment, and practically, volunteering as a tutor for two local elementary students. She's already been working with the students for three years and vows, "I'm going to be there all through their schooling."

Larry Sperling, an attorney, proudly calls his diminutive wife "a little tornado." At sixty-six, Doris recognizes that her life has straddled two cultures. She grew up with traditional ideas about a woman's role: a good wife makes her husband happy; a good wife takes care of her husband. "I believed that," she says. Sperling raised four children and put her husband through law school. "But even my mother got annoyed at my waiting on Larry," she says.

During her years as a housewife, Sperling always worked, teaching art, then elementary grades over a forty-year career. Her final job in the Ann Arbor schools was as a classroom assessment specialist. She's traveled solo all over the world because she loves to travel but Larry doesn't. And she has committed herself to causes in a way that combines the activism of the civil rights movement, the ethics of women's liberation, and the volunteerism of her mother's generation.

How does she do it all? "I'm a high-energy person," she answers. "I can't take credit for it. I was born that way."

As a teacher, Sperling often spent time in the summer individually tutoring the weakest students in her classes. When she retired, she began tutoring two boys just entering the fourth grade. "Neither could read," she recalls.

Three years later, "when Rico sees her coming, he gets excited," says Reiba McGuire, mother of one of Sperling's students. "She's been encouraging him by telling him not to be afraid of mistakes." Rico, like the other boy, is indeed reading. "She'll call him in the evenings to help him with his homework, or he'll call her. I couldn't begin to pay her for her time—for what she does for Rico."

"Kids who have difficulty in school need a mentor," says Sperling. "Many children don't work well in a group situation."

But Sperling also wants to change things on a higher level. She's active in an informal schools monitoring group, which is planning a "town hall" meeting on the achievement gap in October. Last spring the group was influential in lobbying the school board for a special fund for minority and at-risk students.

"I'm an optimist," declares Sperling, when asked about these new initiatives. But she's also painfully aware that the district has tried unsuccessfully for a decade to raise the lagging math and English scores of African-American students. Why hasn't more progress been made? Sperling believes a major reason lies in the low expectations some teachers have for African-American students. "White teachers aren't culturally aware of African-Americans," she says. "We need to expect more [from black students] rather than less." According to Sperling, the two students she currently tutors have both had teachers who expected very little from them.

Sperling has been keenly aware of prejudice all of her life. "My mother always taught me that as Jews who had experienced discrimination, we should be active to eliminate it. When I grew up in Miami, Florida, black people had to be off the beach by nine p.m. unless they had a work permit. Black people sat at the back of the bus. When I started teaching in 1953, no Jews or blacks were hired in Ann Arbor."

That changed, and Sperling soon moved from the Wayne Public Schools to the Ann Arbor district. She taught at Bach and Bryant and, for a time, ran a course for teachers on racial relations. "I must have trained over two hundred teachers about institutional racism in the schools . . . But I don't pretend to know about black culture, or what it's like to grow up in black America."

Doris and Larry Sperling met as U-M undergrads and were married the day they graduated in 1953. (Both later returned to school, Larry for his law degree, Doris for a master's in education.) Except for a few years in Washington, D.C., they've made Ann Arbor their home ever since.

Doris proudly points out that "Larry is responsible for the 1970 landmark decision that integrated girls into boys' sports. The case is still cited. Now we've got all these girls' teams, too, and we take it for granted that girls play sports. I still get a thrill when I watch Women's NCAA."

The parents' example has not been lost on their children, all civic-minded professionals. Mike practices law in Milwaukee, Anne is a Ph.D. immunologist at the University of Chicago Hospital, and Ricky is founder and artistic director of the Mosaic Youth Theater of Detroit. "None of the [Mosaic] kids pays a penny," says Sperling proudly. "The whole thing is subsidized by grants and private donations."

And then, of course, there's her son Gene, the presidential advisor. "Every time I see him on TV and read his name, it's still hard to believe," she admits. Known as a workaholic, Gene seems to have inherited his energy from his mother.

Doris Sperling herself shows no signs of tiring. She plays tennis, is involved in a book club, serves on the board of Young People's Theater—which she founded in 1977—and is in close touch with her children and grandchildren. She does her tutoring and consulting and still manages to kick up new projects, most recently envisioning something she calls "Camp Explore," a program that would give some focus to the lives of middle-school boys through outings to destinations such as the Detroit Institute of Arts or the zoo. "Twelve-to-thirteen-year-old kids are in a no-man's-land," she says. "I'm going to be a voice for this!"

Sperling also has joined the local steering committee of America Reads. By this fall, work-study students from the U-M will be tutoring in the Ann Arbor schools—the first local fruits of the program she helped to inspire.

—Rachel Feldbin Urist

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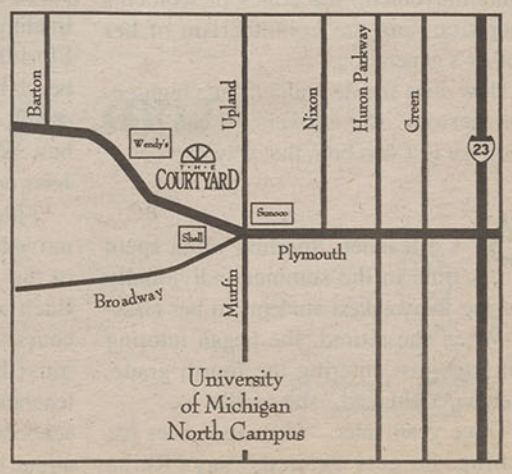

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PETER YATES

"Force houses!"

Secrets of Ultimate Frisbee

A friend writes:

On a ridiculously hot evening in June, cars fill the parking lot of Forsythe Middle School, and thick stacks of mountain bikes are piled along the chain-link fence. People dressed in impromptu team uniforms—red, blue, gray, tie-dyed, plaid, and polka dot—crowd the playing fields behind the school. Many lug backpacks stuffed with water bottles, soccer cleats, and Frisbees. In all, nearly 300 people are on hand as Ann Arbor's Ultimate Frisbee Summer League starts its fourth official season.

I have come reluctantly, at the urging of friends who are deep Ultimate devotees. Though I've heard of the game, I've never seen it played, and I don't know what to expect. I feel intimidated as I walk through the oozing heat onto the fields. Dozens of brightly colored disks soar through the air, pursued by galloping men and women who leap or dive athletically to catch them, then toss the disks back in long, graceful arcs.

Soon the clutter begins to organize itself. Someone marks out three seventy-foot playing fields with orange pylons. I am put on Team Plaid with a dozen other people. Several of us have never played Ultimate before; some have never even thrown a Frisbee.

The team captains explain the rules, which turn out to be simple. Ultimate is similar to soccer: the object is to score by throwing the disk (no carrying allowed) from one teammate to another into the end zone. Seven people at a time play for each team, and the first team to score fifteen wins. If the disk ("disk" is preferable to "Frisbee," we learn) hits the ground, it's a turnover, and the other team takes over. Running into someone is a foul; players call penalties on themselves. And there are strategies, we are told, and esoteric terminology—"pulls" and "stacks"—but we'll figure all of that out later. For now, we just need seven players to take the field; our teammates will substitute in after a couple of points are scored.

The game begins with a "pull," like a kickoff in football. The teams face each other from rows at opposite ends of the field: Team Blue versus Team Plaid. A woman from the opposing team lurches heavily toward us and heaves a miraculously smooth throw the entire length of the field. With a great cry, Team Blue comes charging at us full speed.

> *Mad running, the occasional throw, and the chance to make a good catch keep Ultimate interesting.*

One of our veteran players catches the disk, and we erupt into enthusiastic and utterly befuddled mayhem. No one knows where to go. We collide with one another, sprint in circles, and signal pointlessly for help. It is preposterously fun.

Suddenly, everyone on Team Blue dashes in the other direction—there's been a turnover. Some of them seem as confused as I am, but most are passing crisply to one another. Not just simple throws either: leaning forehands flipped neatly past defenders' grasping fingers, and long upside-down bombs thrown from overhead. Trying to be helpful, our teammates scream incomprehensible advice from the sidelines: "Up! It's up! Yeah, Geoff! Force houses, force houses!"

We get the disk back and sprint downfield again. I can't believe all of the running. I'd thought I was in pretty good shape, but two minutes into the game my legs feel like iron posts. I find myself with the disk, stuck near the sideline, guarded closely by a short, fuzzy-haired guy named Gideon. He starts counting, "One, two, three . . ." I have ten seconds to throw the disk. My teammates swarm and bounce around me like crazed bees. Everyone is covered. When Gideon hits "five," I panic and wobble a pass onto the ground. Turnover. As one of his teammates retrieves the disk, Gideon looks at me, grins apologetically, and tears off down the field. In the end zone, he hurls himself about sixty feet into the air, catches the disk with two fingernails, and lands with an impassive expression. I hobble to the sidelines for a rest.

Sitting on the grass, we holler encouragement to our teammates. Team Plaid's veterans introduce themselves. There is Geoff, a former college player, who in the crushing heat wears a thick flannel shirt and high, bumblebee-striped soccer socks. Lawrence, a gentle-looking block of muscle, has played for over a decade—longer than I'd thought the game had existed. Our team captains, David Mindell and Lisa Brush, have organized the league from their living room for three of the past four years. When I ask why they go to all of the trouble, Lisa sweeps her arm at the crowded fields and replies: "Community building."

The experienced players outline some strategies: when they yelled, "force houses," they meant we should allow the other team to make passes only in the direction of the houses west of the field; "force hills" pushes the offense in the opposite direction. They tell us to create "stacks" after turnovers—a tactic apparently borrowed from soccer, in which players line up, then sprint into the open field to free themselves for passes.

Then we are substituting again, trooping back onto the field. The veterans run relentlessly and hurl exquisite passes, while we novices blunder into haphazard stacks and force the offense in random directions. But incompetence is no barrier to a good time. Mad running, the occasional throw, and the chance to make a good catch keep Ultimate interesting.

By the end of the game, my calves are throbbing, my nose is sunburned, I've been scored on three times, and I'm a convert. During the traditional postgame cheer for our opponent, I give a private nod to Frisbee-inspired community-building, and even tentative approval to deep Ultimate devotion.

Briarwood encounter

The case of the tethered toddler

A friend writes:

My husband and I frequently have our toddler Rhianon on a leash. She's fast and a darter, and it's the only way to let her wander while keeping her safe and us sane.

When we take Rhee out in public, we collect our share of approval, censure, and amusement from passersby over our tethered child. But last Friday was a classic.

It was a pretty crowded day at Briarwood. Tom had Rhee on the leash, and I was following along with her stroller. Suddenly ahead of us there was a commotion: a woman was trying to control her toddler, a boy perhaps a little older than Rhee. She had neither tether nor stroller, but she did have two large shopping bags complicating the picture—and her son was taking full advantage of it. I think she'd have had an easier time juggling cats.

Finally, after fishing the boy out of three stores and preventing a break back in the direction they'd come, she dropped one of the shopping bags. Her son pulled away, ran forward, and firmly clasped the large round fundament of a matron in their path.

The ensuing shrieks, explanations, and apologies were painful—though familiar to anyone with a child. Fortunately the matron had a sense of humor, but it was clear the boy's mother was losing it. As the older woman moved off, Mommy looked up and saw Rhee, toddling along on her tether.

The look on her face was similar, I imagine, to the look pilgrims get when they see the Promised Land. She stepped forward and uttered one word: "Where?"

Tom stopped dead with his mouth open, but I understood immediately. "Toys R Us. Three dollars. Get two—one for the diaper bag, one for the glove box."

"Thank you," she said fervently. Hoisting her bags, she tightened her grip on Junior, and staggered away. ■

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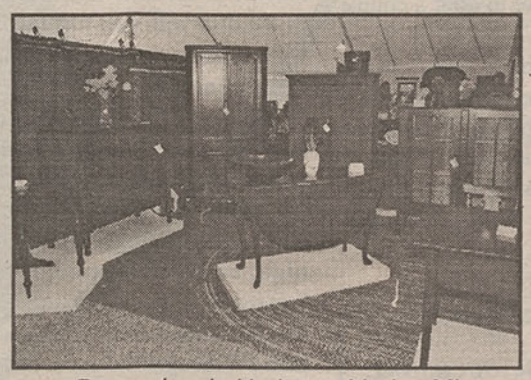

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Osias Zwerdling's Art Deco sign

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

From 1915 to 1943, Osias Zwerdling ran a fur store at 215–217 East Liberty. Sometime in the 1920s, he had an Art Deco sign—a twilight scene of a wolf baying at the moon—painted on an exterior wall. Zwerdling always took pride in the fact that the sign was painted by a professional artist, and its "painterly quality," says architectural conservator Ron Koenig, is probably the reason no one ever painted over it. But the main reason a group of people recently raised $12,000 to restore it is Zwerdling's role as patriarch of Ann Arbor's Jewish community.

Born in Brody, Austria (now part of Ukraine), in 1878, Zwerdling attended a yeshiva taught by his grandfather. His grandfather hoped he would become a rabbi, but Zwerdling's father died when he was three, and he had to work to help support his family. At age thirteen, he was apprenticed to a tailor.

As a young man, Zwerdling's dream was to immigrate to America. At age twenty-two, he got as far as Paris, where he worked for a year to save money for a steerage ticket and an English dictionary. (He studied the dictionary during the twelve-day voyage.)

Arriving at Ellis Island, he soon got a tailoring job in Buffalo. There he met Charles Schrain, an employee of Mack and Company, Ann Arbor's big department store, who convinced him to come to Michigan. Zwerdling moved to Ann Arbor in 1903 to work at Mack's as a ladies tailor, eventually creating his own line of women's clothes. He also worked with furs and so gained the distinction of being the first furrier in Ann Arbor.

In 1907 Zwerdling left Mack's to start his own store at 333 South Main. The same year he married Hannah Kaufman of Manchester, England, whom he'd met on a business trip. (Like Zwerdling, the Kaufmans were originally from what was then Austria.) In 1915, he built the store on Liberty.

Originally Zwerdling sold ladies clothes. But by 1918 his city directory ad mentioned "a full line of furs," and by 1926 he was dealing in furs exclusively. It was then considered the height of fashion for a woman to own a fur coat, and raccoon coats were the rage among college students. In a 1944 paper for the Washtenaw County Historical Society, Zwerdling recalled, "Not long ago I would swear there were 5,000 coonskin coats walking about on the campus!"

When Zwerdling arrived in Ann Arbor, the city had just three Jewish families—too few to hold religious services. For his first decade here, he traveled to a synagogue in Detroit. But then on one Jewish holiday, according to Zwerdling's grandnephew, Marc Halman, a Detroit rabbi was hospitalized in Ann Arbor. He asked Zwerdling to gather a minyan, the quorum of ten Jewish men required to hold a service. To his surprise, Zwerdling succeeded—and realized that Ann Arbor's Jewish community had grown enough to support a congregation.

After meeting informally in Zwerdling's home for several years, Beth Israel Congregation was formally organized in 1916 by Zwerdling and five others: William Bittker, David Friedman, Israel Friedman, Philip Lansky, and David Mortsky. Zwerdling was elected the synagogue's president—a position he would hold for the next thirty-two years.

At first the congregation met in borrowed quarters, including the Schwaben Halle and the Ladies Library Association. The first building the synagogue owned was a small house on North Main, about where the Greek Orthodox church is today. As the congregation grew, Beth Israel moved to North Division, to Hill Street, and finally to its present location at 2000 Washtenaw Avenue.

Jewish college students from all over the country arrived at the U-M with Zwerdling's name as a resource. He might help them find a room, or a job, or simply invite them home for Friday dinner. He helped found Hillel in 1926—it was only the second such center for Jewish students in the country—and always insisted that Beth Israel's location be within walking distance of campus.

Zwerdling retired in 1943 at age sixty-five. He sold his business to Jacobson's, but most of his employees moved to Nagler's, the other Jewish furrier in town. The store was rented by Max Deess, owner of Master Furrier, whose specialty was mink. Deess ran his store until the early 1970s, when he sold it to an assistant, who moved it to Lamp Post Plaza. Today, when there is nothing more politically incorrect than owning a fur coat, the only fur store listed in the Ann Arbor Yellow Pages is in Detroit.

Zwerdling lived for thirty-three years after retiring, and continued to be active in community affairs, serving on the boards of the Ann Arbor Federal Savings and Loan (now Great Lakes), the Boy Scouts, the Family Services Agency, the Community Chest, and the YMCA. He died in 1977, at the age of ninety-eight. Zwerdling was as "sharp as a tack until the end," says Helen Aminoff. She remembers him attending a board meeting where someone was giving a report on a piece of property the group was considering for a community center. Zwerdling, then in his late nineties, "sat, lips quivering. Suddenly he looked up and said, 'Go back four pages. There's a mistake in the calculations.' And there was!"

During his lifetime, Zwerdling retained ownership of the Liberty Street building, so the sign remained intact. But over the years it gradually deteriorated, and although the sign had been designated an individual historic property by city council in 1988, no one had the money to restore it.

Jean King, whose law offices are upstairs in the Liberty Street building, became concerned about the sign and started working with Fay Woronoff. They enlisted the aid of Marc Halman and another Zwerdling grandnephew, John Weiss, as well as Louisa Pieper, staff director of the city's historic district commission. The group met over a five-year span in Woronoff's living room, first researching the best way to preserve the sign and then raising the necessary money from family members, foundation grants (Buhr and Taubman), and the community, especially from members of Beth Israel and Beth Emeth, the Reform temple that split off from Beth Israel in 1966.

Painted when the coonskin coat was the height of campus fashion, this sign has been restored to honor Beth Israel's founder.

The restoration was done by the Seebohn Company, a firm that has worked on five state capitols, plus important buildings in London and Washington, D.C. Project director Ron Koenig, formerly of Greenfield Village, re-created the sign, using paint samples from the original to match colors. After repainting, he and his crew covered it with a glaze to soften it, distressed it so it would look older, and put on a "sacrificial cover," which allows graffiti to be removed without damaging the painting. A dedication reception will be held at Kempf House on Sunday, August 3, at 4 p.m.; afterward, participants are invited to walk over to the sign for a viewing.

An enthusiastic preservationist, Koenig was delighted when he first started working on the sign and passersby approached him, saying things like, "You're not going to paint over the sign are you? I've been looking at it since I was a kid."

—Grace Shackman

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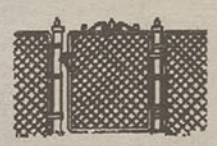

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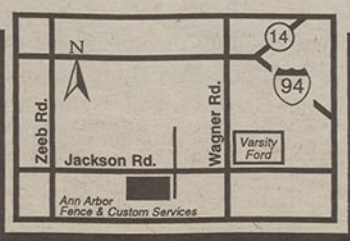

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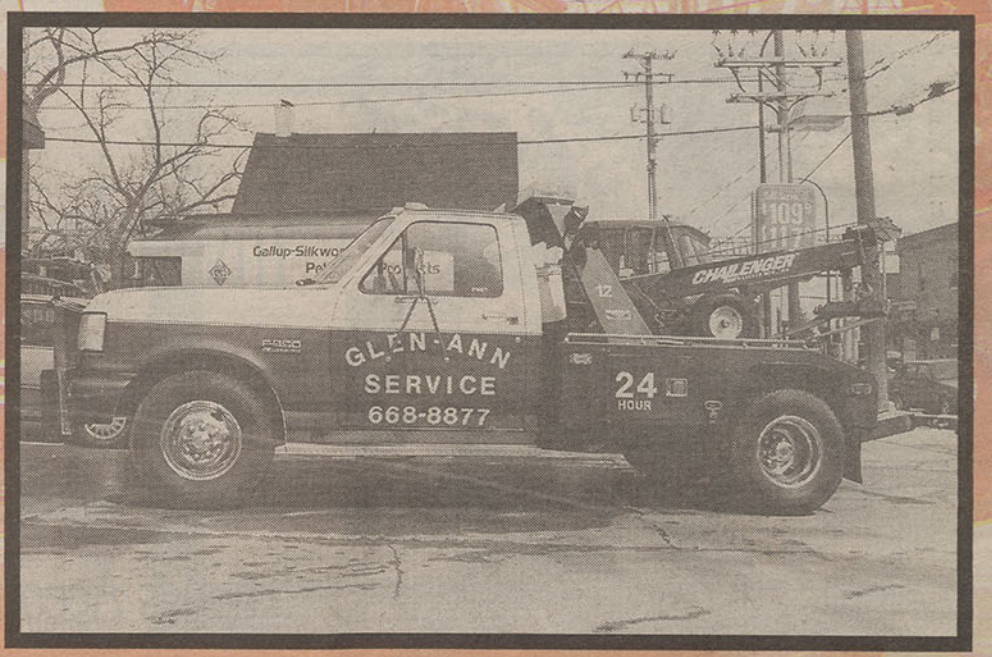
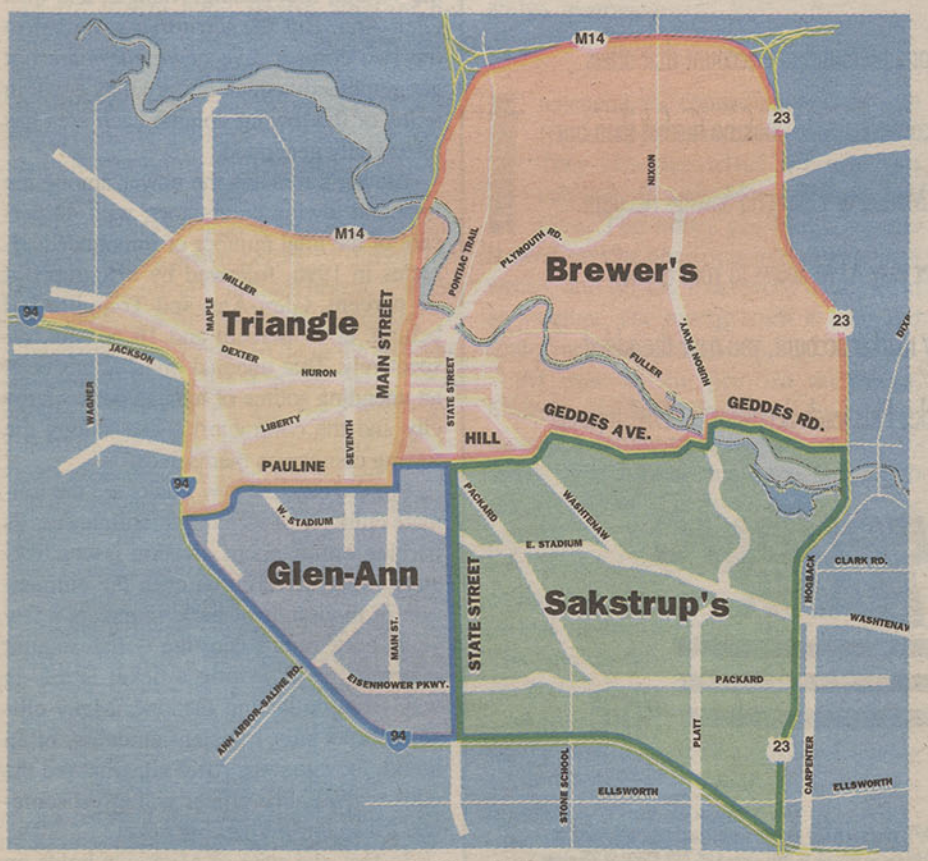
TOWED Away

Every year the city impounds thousands of cars for unpaid parking tickets. One woman's journey through the system uncovered some astonishing facts about just how expensive and unsupervised it is—and why it's so resistant to reform.

by Anne S. Chapple



GREGORY FOX



The city contracts to tow more than 4,000 vehicles a year. Four companies share the business, each towing cars from within its own sector of the city. (In addition to the southwest side, Glen-Ann Towing also gets all calls from U-M property.) City council wants to equalize the towing districts, but some contractors like things fine as they are—creating a deadlock that has left the city operating under a towing contract that was originally adopted seven years ago.

If you live in Ann Arbor long enough, chances are that the city will tow your vehicle for one reason or another. Kris Foondle of the transportation division estimates that the city impounded 4,320 vehicles in 1996—almost a dozen a day, 365 days a year. The vast majority were towed for defaulted parking tickets.

My turn came in June. After months of daily struggles to find a parking place within walking distance of my job at the U-M Medical School, I had accumulated a handful of tickets. A computer flagged my car for impoundment, a parking enforcement officer spotted it in a parking structure, and a city contractor, Glen-Ann Towing, hauled it away.

When I made my way on foot to city hall, I was prepared to pay my tickets. But the towing charge came as a shock: a whopping $100, plus a $20 fee to the city, and storage charges at the rate of $10 a day. Since when, I asked the Ann Arbor Police Department officer, had towing fees rocketed to such heights? She told me that the bill reflected a standard $58 tow and an additional $42 charge for a "dolly" tow, required for four-wheel-drive vehicles like mine that need to be towed with all four wheels off the ground.

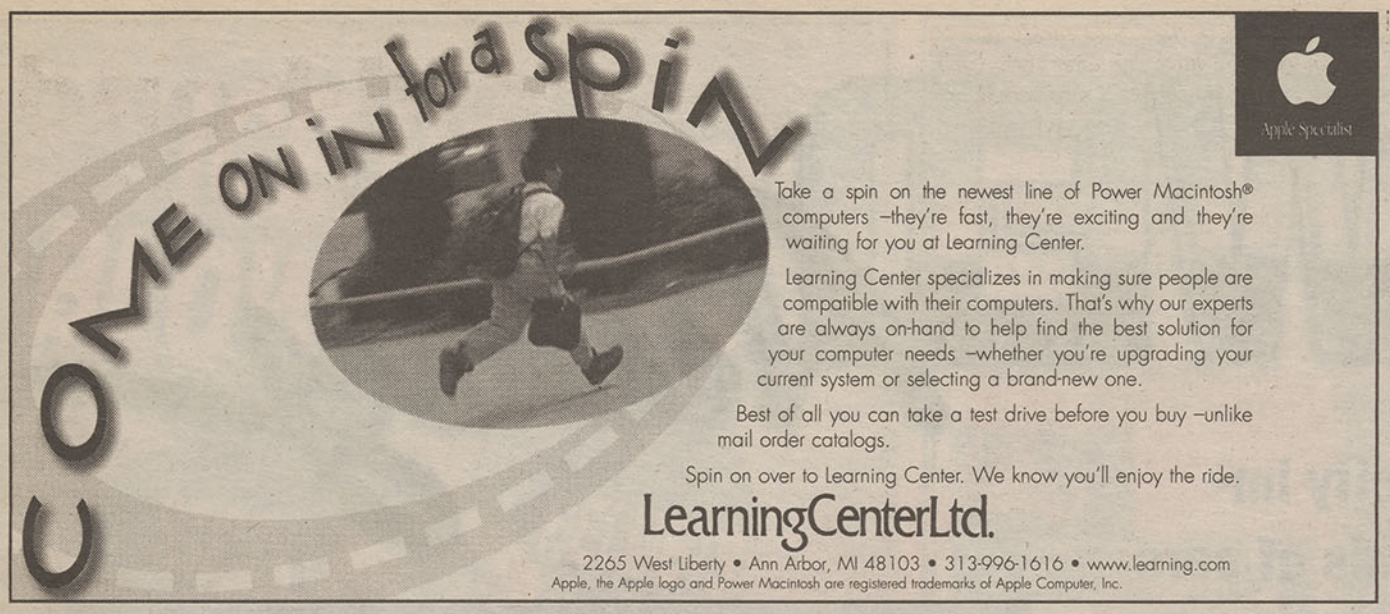
I was floored, and determined to learn more. Eventually, my questions led me to Kris Foondle. Foondle confirmed that my experience was not unusual: he estimates that the average bill for an impound tow, including storage charges, runs $100–$150.

If my car had broken down on the road, I would have been towed for free—a perk of my AAA membership. Curious as to what the actual towing service costs, I phoned AAA of Michigan. According to William Priem, supervisor of automotive services, the company pays its contractors a flat rate of $27.32 to tow a vehicle in Ann Arbor, with no extra payment for dolly tows.

In Ann Arbor, I also learned, the city tows far more cars a year than AAA does. Why, I wanted to know, does it cost so much more to be towed by the city? Digging for the answer, I found that hasn't always been the case. As recently as 1989, an impound tow in Ann Arbor cost just $23. Rates took their first big jump, to $38–$40, when city council approved new towing contracts in 1990.

Some adjustment was overdue—the old rate dated back to the 1970s. But since 1990, the price of impound tows has continued to soar. City contracts permit the towing companies to raise their rates, with council approval, by as much as 10 percent a year. And most years, they have. A standard wheel-lift tow now costs $55–$58—a 45 percent increase since 1990.

That increase could have been even greater, I learned. Council twice rejected proposed rate increases in the mid-1990s, when the city was attempting to negotiate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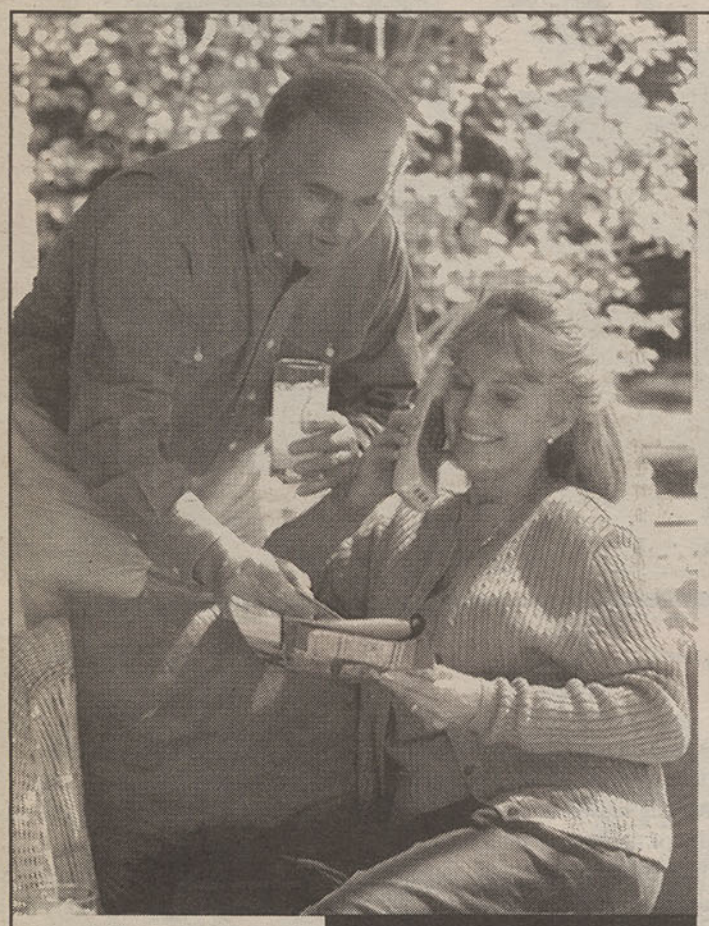

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DISTINCTIVE PERSONAL BANKING

TOWING *continued*

a new towing contract. To date, those efforts have gone nowhere, and the old contract, which was originally scheduled to expire in 1993, remains in force.

In my city hall search, I was amazed to learn that no one in the city systematically monitors towing contractors' performance or has any authority over them. In theory, council could choose not to renew a contract if problems persist, but it's an empty threat. The impasse over the contract means the roster of firms that tow for the city and the area that each serves have been locked in for the past seven years.

Even as its contractors tow thousands of cars each year, I realized, no one at the city is minding the store.

Four companies do impound towing for the city of Ann Arbor. Each is assigned its own area of the city. The contractors' map of Ann Arbor looks a little like a map of Berlin at the end of World War II, with the zones of occupation established by the Allies. But instead of the United States, England, France, and Russia, the sectors are marked Brewer's, Sakstrup's, Triangle, and Glen-Ann.

These four contractors are the only ones that responded to the city's 1990 request for proposals. After reviewing the bids, then–city administrator Del Borgsdorf declared Brewer's and Sakstrup's the most qualified. Both had long histories of working with the city, and Borgsdorf recommended dividing the impound towing business between them.

Council, however, chose to distribute the wealth, first adding Triangle, and then Glen-Ann. But the territories awarded to the two comparative newcomers are not geographically equal, nor are they equal in terms of the towing volume each area has historically generated.

Brewer's remains the power among the impound towing contractors, with 44 percent of the total number of impounded vehicles in 1996, followed by Sakstrup's at 23 percent. Glen-Ann and Triangle trail behind, at 17 percent and 16 percent, respectively. That unequal division has been an unending source of tension between the city and the contractors—and among the towing companies themselves.

For the city, the tow trucks are the ultimate enforcer of its parking ordinances. Its parking enforcement division issues tickets so aggressively that even the elimination of thousands of parking meters a few years back didn't dent the dollar amount generated. But writing a ticket is a long way from collecting the fine. Many citizens, especially transient students, often ignore the citations. After all, what are the odds that a police officer will arrest someone for an unpaid parking ticket?

In fact, the state of Michigan holds up vehicle registration renewals for anyone who has six or more outstanding tickets—a powerful inducement for scofflaws to pay up. But Ann Arbor goes even further in pressing people to pay: since 1994, parking enforcement has been au-

thorized to tow cars with as few as four parking tickets in default.

As my own experience demonstrated, towing is highly effective at getting people to pay their tickets—and my fines were just a small drop in a very large bucket. According to Alan Burns, the city's budget director, Ann Arbor collected more than $2.2 million in parking fines in the fiscal year just ended and passed on roughly another $1 million to the U-M for citations issued on its property.

When a car is towed, the city adds a $20 processing fee to the overdue tickets, but the towing fee goes entirely to the contractor. So as long as a driver pays off the tickets, the city has no vested interest in completing a tow. If a driver is lucky enough to return to his car before the tow truck departs, enforcement officers will collect payment on the spot (credit cards accepted) and call off the tow. For those who are towed, the city also has taken steps to make it easier for people to get their cars back. They require contractors to accept credit card payment and to make it possible for citizens to retrieve their cars twenty-four hours a day.

The contractors say that it is precisely those efforts to mitigate the pain that make impound tows so expensive. Both Dennis Brewer, owner of Brewer's, and Scott Snuverink, owner of Triangle Towing, single out the twenty-four-hour requirement as a major financial burden because it means they have to staff their impound lots round the clock. Several contractors have also complained that the requirement exposes their personnel to unwarranted hazards from irate late-night customers.

The city, though, has evidently concluded that the extra convenience to its residents is worth the cost. I asked city administrator Neal Berlin whether he thought there was any chance the city would revise the twenty-four-hour requirement in the next contract. "I'd be surprised," he replied. "Because for most people it's pretty important to get their car back."

The policy of letting drivers pay their tickets if they arrive before or during the towing process also inflates prices. A vehicle owner has to pay a $20 "drop fee" if the car is already hooked up to the wrecker when they arrive. But if the car hasn't been hooked up yet, or the tow truck hasn't arrived on the scene, the tow is canceled by the enforcement officer, and no fee is paid to the towing company. Snuverink at Triangle estimates his company gets about five to eight such cancellations a week.

In the minutes of a 1996 "pre-bid" meeting between contractors and city officials, Glen-Ann's Jim Heidenescher, son of owner Clarence Heidenescher, complained about the on-street payment policy:

I get out there and my job is to hook up, but the City rep is dealing with some U of M person who just ran out of their building because they saw us coming and now they're making deals and telling me not to hook up. Half the time I get there and even if I do hook up and they pay and then the City rep tells me to drop, the person runs away after paying the tickets. What am I supposed to do, run after them and tackle them? Sometimes I have run after them but I am not following them into a building or nothing and leaving my truck out there unattended because I have other calls. What am I supposed to do. It's the City's fault I lost that tow because they let the guy pay on the street. Then I'm just left standing there. I am not going to chase them forever. This happens all the time at the U of M lots. All the time. And it isn't fair.

The minutes show Brewer and Snuverink seconded Heidenescher's complaint. "It seems to me that we are doing the City a favor," Snuverink said. "If it weren't for us, none of these cars are going to get towed at all. When we do show up we should get paid, because the parking tickets are getting paid and the Towers aren't."

In an interview, Snuverink elaborates. "If we weren't there as a threat to the vehicle owner of having their car towed, they could simply walk away without paying, and there'd be nothing the city could do. If we're taking our time to go out there, we should be paid for our time." In addition to drop fees, Brewer, Snuverink, and others present at the 1996 meeting argued that towing companies should be paid a "show-up fee" for driving to the scene of an intended tow.

Another factor that increases the cost of an impound tow, Snuverink points out, is that in a normal towing situation, tow truck operators have the keys to the car and the customer's permission. Impound towing often requires drivers to open locked cars, and with angry, involuntary customers, they have to protect themselves against lawsuits with expensive liability insurance.

In general, the contractors I talked with felt unappreciated and underpaid. They view themselves as providing a valuable, but rarely appreciated, service. The hours are long (Dennis Brewer says he often puts in eighty hours a week), and drivers must work outdoors in all weather. The towing itself is hard and sometimes dangerous work.

At one of the pre-bid meetings, Clarence Heidenescher upbraided city officials for failing to appreciate towers' efforts: "Well I know one thing, I'd like to see any of you guys try to do our work for just one day. You couldn't do it. It's damn hard work." I believe him. The steel dolly equipment, which must be manually lifted on and off the wrecker, is extremely heavy. The wrecker drivers I met all have *big* upper bodies.

Another factor that bears importantly on the high cost of city impound towing is Ann Arbor's stringent set of requirements regarding storage facilities, workmen's compensation, insurance, and especially, equipment.

If the impound tow system functioned solely to enforce parking violations, anyone with a single tow truck could make a credible bid for at least some of the city's business. But any towing company contracting with Ann Arbor must also serve its

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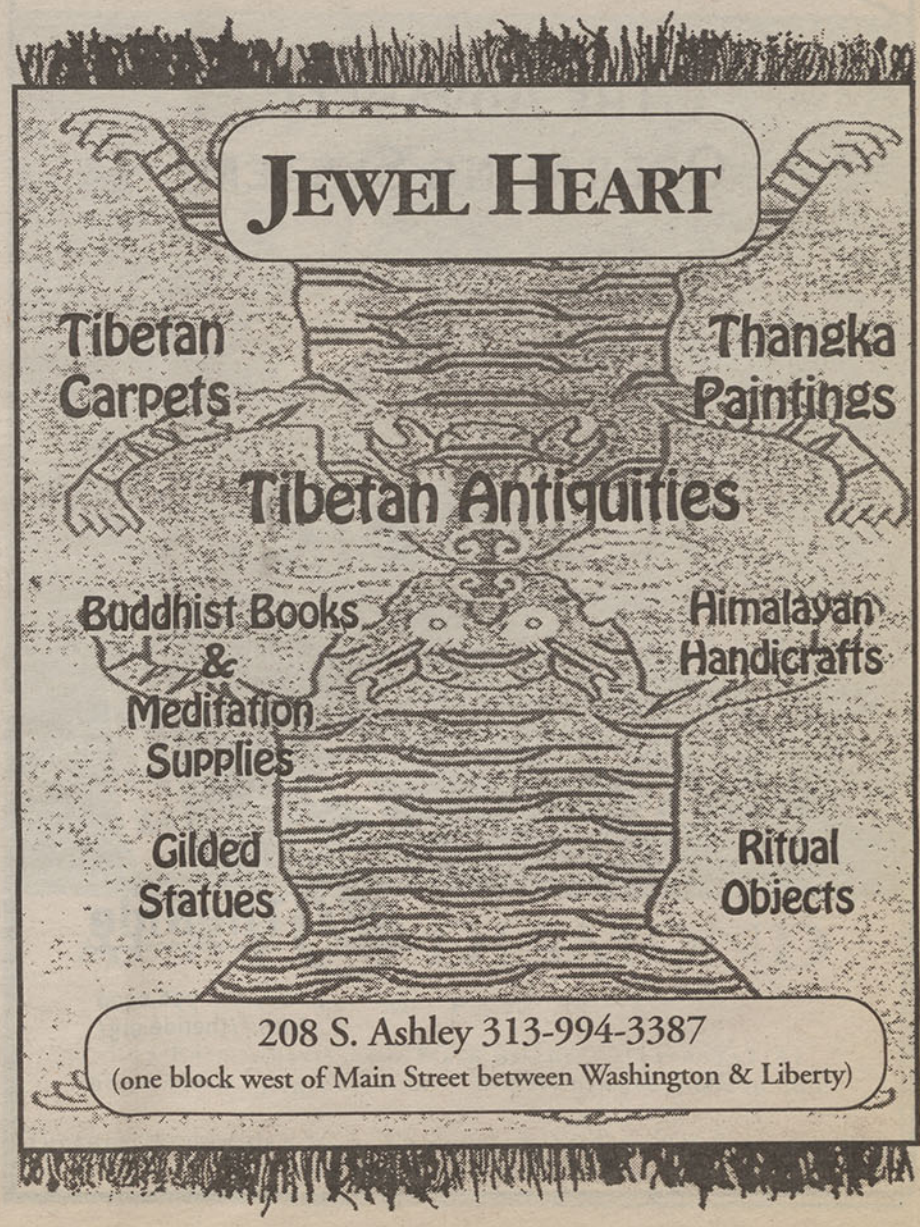

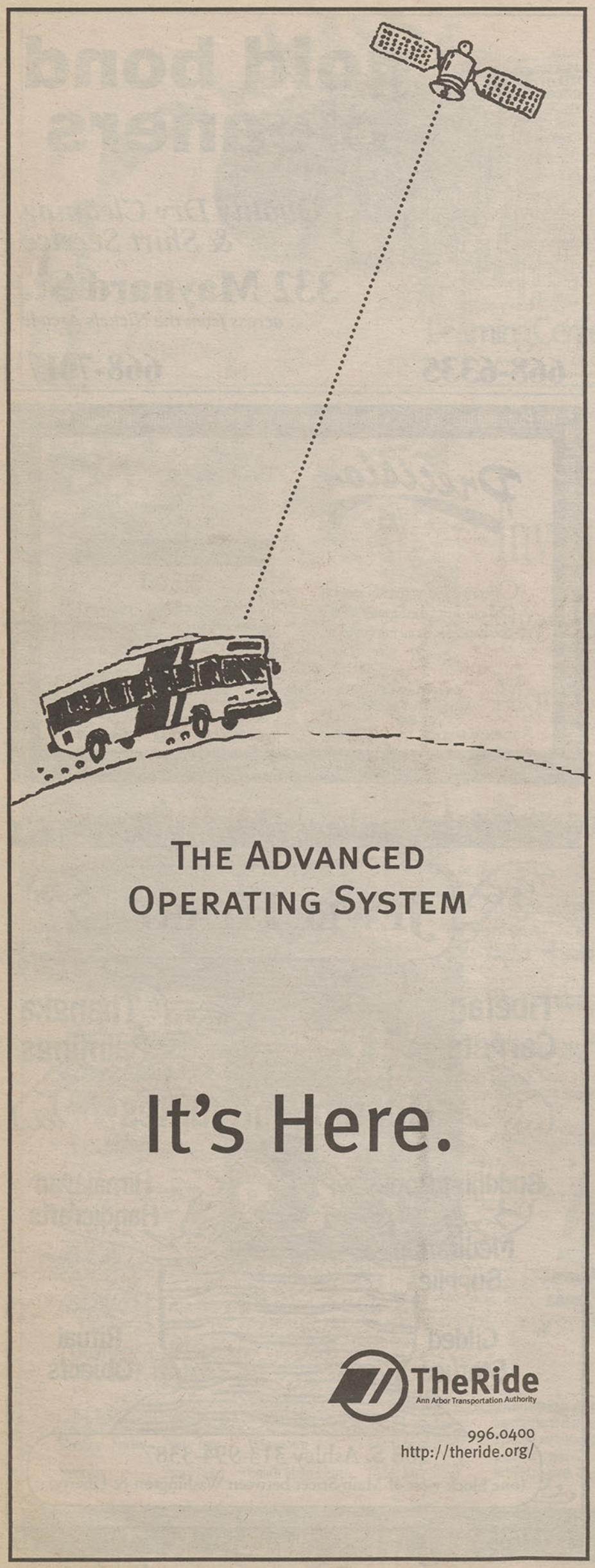

TOWING *continued*

police department. Police officers, calling wreckers to clear the scene of an accident, expect fast and comprehensive service.

The 1990 contract stipulates that contractors must respond to police calls within twenty minutes. It also requires every contractor to maintain a formidable roster of equipment, including four standard Class A wreckers, one larger Class B wrecker, and one Class C wrecker, a $250,000 machine capable of hauling semis. While contractors try to keep these costly fleets busy on breakdown calls and tows for private property owners, the huge Class C wreckers sit idle most of the time. Snuverink recalls using his just three times in a recent month.

Although all of these requirements add up to formidable overhead costs and bigger bills for the thousands of Ann Arborites whose cars are towed each year, no one issue irritates the contractors nearly as much as the subject of towing territories. The apportioning of towing districts is *the* bone of contention between the city and its contractors.

Since the 1990 contract expired, city staff have twice developed Requests for Proposals (RFPs), intended to serve as the basis for new contracts. RFP 388 and RFP 407 were drafted under the direction of former transportation head John Avendt, whose position was eliminated in July as a cost-cutting move. Both RFPs delineated a new set of towing districts; both failed to receive city council approval.

The minutes of the pre-bid meetings make it clear why the proposals failed: the city needs its contractors, but council's directive to equalize the four towing districts met with a decidedly mixed response from them.

With the biggest share of the city's impound tows, Dennis Brewer is understandably happy with the districts in the present arrangement. At the first pre-bid meeting on RFP 388, he asked of the districts, "Why were they changed, isn't everyone happy with what they have? . . . why waste all your time on this new contract and these new areas?"

But as Avendt pointed out, not everyone is as happy as Brewer. "I only have 7% of tows from the current existing district," Clarence Heidenescher complained, citing figures from 1990–1991, "and I only got that because the City never followed up on their promise. I wrote the Mayor a letter, and I am not pleased with the response. Someone's going to have to answer in court."

Earlier in the discussion, owner Richard Sakstrup had chimed in with a completely different proposal: "What's wrong with three areas," he asked, "or the old AAA plan like the way it used to be 20 years ago?"

With everybody fighting for a slice of the same pie, one company's gain is necessarily another company's loss. It's no wonder, then, that the towing companies have not been able to agree among themselves on new districts and have been unhappy with the city's proposals.

After RFP 388 went down in flames, Avendt and his team drafted a new proposal, RFP 407. At council's direction, the new districts were designed to be comparable both in geographic area and in projected number of tows, as calculated from historical data.

At the pre-bid meetings, however, the contractors criticized the proposed areas as "unreasonable." "I challenge the areas," complained Brewer. "The whole bid process is screwed up. The people who put this together have no clue about towing. . . . This is the thanks I get for putting my heart and guts into this City for over 23 years? . . . It just isn't fair, the people who put this together don't understand what it means to work hard every day for 20 years trying to provide a quality service."

City public service director Bill Wheeler had this to say in reply:

Dennis, I'm sorry you feel that way, but you're wrong about this. The people

A bribery charge over private property tows

The more than 4,000 vehicles the city tows are only half the story. Contractors estimate that at least that many cars and trucks are towed each year from private parking lots.

Companies towing from private property must be licensed, but it's a much easier business to get into than towing for the city. The chief requirements are a twenty-four-hour impoundment lot and prompt notification to the police department whenever a car is towed or released. (The notice is important because unsuspecting owners often report their cars as stolen.) It's a much more competitive business than city towing—and one with its own potential for abuse.

In February, two resident managers of Island Drive Apartments were charged with bribery after allegedly requesting a kickback from Triangle Towing owner Scott Snuverink. The case is now pending in 15th District Court.

According to an Ann Arbor Police Department report in the court file, one of the managers, Kelli Anne Sanders, called Snuverink in February. She allegedly offered him the right to tow unauthorized vehicles from the complex's lot—in exchange for a 10 percent kickback on the towing fees.

Sharing towing fees with any third party violates the city private property towing regulations. Snuverink went to the police. AAPD sergeant Chris Heatley, posing as a Triangle driver, accompanied Snuverink to the apartment complex. In his report, Heatley alleges that Sanders and her husband, Tommy, offered to give Triangle their private property towing business in exchange for a weekly cash payment.

When Heatley later called Kelli Anne Sanders and identified himself as a police officer, she reportedly "stated that she had heard that this was a common practice and it was a 'finder's fee' and it was acceptable for her to receive payment for the work she did in locating these illegally parked vehicles." At their arraignments on February 24, both defendants pleaded not guilty to bribery. The case is scheduled to go to trial in October.

—*A.S.C.*

who put this together worked very hard on this to do the best job possible, and they are very knowledgeable about these issues. We have been instructed by Council to prepare a bid document which has four geographically comparable areas. We've done that. If you're not happy with that, you need to speak with them. I know that you talked to them about the first bid, and that's why they rejected it. This is the decision they came up with, and we've done exactly as they directed.

Apparently the contractors did speak to the council members; on February 3, 1997, council rescinded RFP 407. To date, no replacement RFP has been produced. I asked city administrator Berlin about the likelihood of an agreement being reached soon. He wasn't optimistic. "Someone always has a complaint," he says. The chances are very good, he adds, that city council would approve any new set of districts that the contractors could agree on—but there's no sign of that happening.

Meanwhile, the towing machine lumbers on, largely without supervision from the city. Under the 1990 contract, companies' performance was to be reviewed regularly in terms of "valid citizen complaints" and "valid vehicle damage claims," among other things. However, according to Avendt, no city agency is currently conducting performance reviews on the towing contractors.

At the AAPD, sergeant Chris Heatley of the special services section says he and fellow officers receive citizen complaints about towing (some valid, some not) on a regular basis. The complaints are passed on to the city attorney's office, but since the police department has no power to investigate civil disputes, nothing much is done about them.

Heatley makes it clear that he's not interested in vilifying anyone. But in his opinion, the towing system (both impound towing and private property towing) has gotten out of control. He cites two critical problems: the city's urgent need for a new contract to replace the 1990 agreement, and the fact that no one is in charge of enforcing the current contract. Heatley suggests that enforcement issues might be efficiently and fairly handled if a small committee were appointed, with members drawn from the police department, the parking violations division, the transportation division, the city attorney's office, and city council.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I requested the police department's towing complaint files. Neal Berlin also made available additional files from the transportation division and parking enforcement.

Considering the number of tows performed, the files were surprisingly slim. Moreover, most of the complaints were over tows from private property, rather than city tows. But even in the narrow sample of complaints over city impound tows, a clear pattern was apparent.

I didn't find a single complaint against Brewer's, Sakstrup's, or Triangle for their performance in a city tow. A number of complaints, however, were directed at Glen-Ann. Complaints included unnecessary use of dollies, vehicle damage, refusal to accept credit card payment, and rudeness.

In responses included in the files, Clarence Heidenescher vehemently defended his company's performance. After Jim Stein, the assistant manager of parking enforcement, suspended impoundment calls to Glen-Ann for one day in June 1996, Heidenescher responded that he was being harassed. He threatened litigation unless he was compensated and Stein was fired. (Heidenescher wasn't compensated, and Stein wasn't fired.)

Stein subsequently conducted an impromptu study of city impound tows. During November and December of last year, he tallied how many vehicles were towed by each contractor and by what method. Stein's most striking finding was that Glen-Ann is especially prone to tow vehicles with dollies versus the much cheaper wheel-lift procedure. Over the survey period, Glen-Ann dollied 49 percent of the vehicles it impounded (35 out of 71 vehicles), Sakstrup's dollied 15 percent (8 out of 54), Triangle dollied 7 percent (5 out of 69), and Brewer's dollied only 6 percent (9 out of 139) of impounded vehicles. Glen-Ann performed 21 percent of the impound tows, but accounted for 61 percent of the far more expensive dolly tows.

It looked to me as if Glen-Ann was deliberately increasing its fees by dollying as many cars as possible. Not so, says Heidenescher, who insists "we go by the AAA book" in determining which cars might be damaged by conventional wheel-lift towing. "We do [dolly towing] to save the customer money and save ourselves a hell of a lot of grief and time."

After city council rescinded RFP 407 in February, it appointed a task force to oversee the production of a new request for proposals. Unfortunately, the key issues don't appear to be getting any easier to resolve than they were in the two previous attempts.

Task force members include mayor Ingrid Sheldon and council members Jean Carlberg, Patrick Putman, Pat Vereen-Dixon, and Chris Kolb. As of mid-July, says Carlberg, the task force had only begun to address the issue: "We asked the city staff to go back to the drawing board and redesign the towing districts."

According to Carlberg, task force members are examining the idea of "prequalifying" towing companies prior to the bidding process. Only after they decide how many companies are qualified, she adds, can they even begin to address the thorny issue of how to draw the all-important boundary map—at which point, presumably, the contractors will renew their quarrel over how to divide the pie.

All of which means no replacement is yet in sight for the now seven-year-old contract. Asked when a new RFP will be ready, Carlberg replies, "I have no idea."

I'm not holding my breath—and I'm paying my parking tickets promptly. ■

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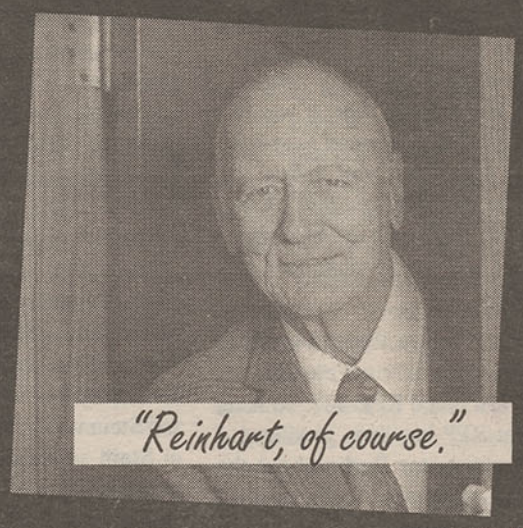

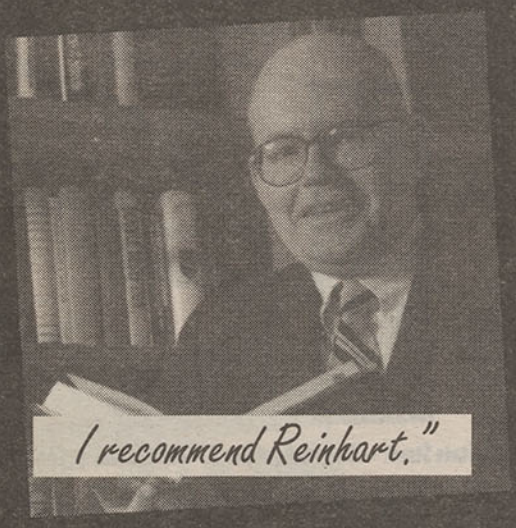

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REAL ESTATE

SUPERSTARS

PETER YATES

Even in a hot market like Ann Arbor, selling homes is a tough business. Here's how Nancy Bishop, Fran Jones, and Jeff Tothill made it to the top.

by Eve Silberman

"When you're doing fourteen million a year or more," says one Ann Arbor Realtor who isn't, "you're in the superstar league."

Nancy Bishop ($23 million in 1996 sales), Jeff Tothill ($22 million), and Fran Jones ($17 million) are the superstars' superstars. Last year, they were the three top sellers among the 800 members of the Ann Arbor Area Board of Realtors. Both Jones and Bishop have been hot stuff on the local real estate scene for a quarter century. Helped by a team of assistants, Tothill soared to the top in less than a decade.

Anyone who completes a forty-hour licensing course can become a Realtor. But it's an industry axiom that 20 percent of the agents make 80 percent of the sales. The average Realtor handles fewer than ten "transactions" a year. (Because two Realtors can earn commissions on a single sale—one for listing the house and the other for selling it—the number of transactions can be twice as high as the number of sales.) Typically, two brokers split a 7 percent commission. At that rate, the average Realtor probably couldn't afford a home in Ann Arbor, says Dave Lutton, president of the Charles Reinhart Company.

But together, Jones, Bishop, and Tothill signed off on 246 transactions in 1996. At a 3.5 percent commission, those sales would have earned each of their listing brokers (Reinhart, the Edward Surovell Company, and the Michigan Group, respectively) more than half a million dollars. Commissions are reduced on big sales and Realtors incur substantial expenses to sell houses—but there's no question that Ann Arbor's real estate superstars do very well for themselves.

But even top sellers struggle with the field's occupational hazards: intense competition, awful hours, and emotional customers poised on the edge of the biggest financial transaction of their lives. And outsiders often forget that Realtors work strictly on commission: "A lot of people think Mr. Reinhart writes me a check every week," sighs Jones.

Somehow, Jones, Bishop, and Tothill thrive in this high-stress world. Sharp, tenacious, and hardworking, they emphasize their friendly dealings and downplay their rivalry. "We all talk like on the same wavelength," says Tothill. He adds, "There's enough acorns on the ground for all the squirrels." Nonetheless, they keenly vie for the ever-shifting number-one spot. One agent who knows all three says dryly, "They all claim they don't care [about the competition]. And they all care immensely."

NANCY BISHOP

From English teacher to superstar

In the dark basement of a Burns Park home, Nancy Bishop struggles to remove a burned-out fluorescent bulb from a ceiling fixture. The long glass tube seems determined to stay where it is, but the small woman in a denim shirt and skirt is just as determined to remove it. Eventually, Bishop wins, and the dusty tube falls into her hands like a trophy—another minor triumph in her scramble to get the house ready to be shown to prospective buyers this afternoon.

The owners of the house, who are out of town, have given Bishop carte blanche to whip their place into shape. So far, she has had the house's smudged white walls repainted, has replaced the drab doormats with pretty cloth rugs, and has reorganized all of the kitchen cabinets. She hired her daughter Somer, a recent Greenhills grad, to pack up books, toys, and papers piled on a living room cabinet. Even with Somer's help, Bishop figures she's put in forty hours to get this house ready for showing.

She says matter-of-factly, "Most Realtors would not do this much work."

Some Realtors would object to that remark, but clearly Bishop's obsession with detail helps explain why last year she sold $23 million worth of residential real estate. "More than anyone has ever sold in this county [in one year]," says Ed Surovell, her nominal boss. (Technically, real estate agents are independent contractors, but they must work for a licensed broker such as Surovell.) "What's more," Surovell points out, "she did it without assistance."

I meet Bishop at 1 p.m. at Surovell's office on West Stadium. As usual her workday had begun early: up for breakfast with her husband, Ray, at 6 a.m., then working in her home office (with its six phone lines) by 7 a.m.

We start off at a northeast-side condo that a young couple is considering renting. Although another agent is handling the rental, the couple wanted Bishop's opinion. (Bishop calls her visit a "courtesy.") The couple, both physicians, clearly like the condo; when Bishop tells them it is "under-rented" at $1,800 a month, they reach for their checkbooks.

Next is a duplex in Burns Park, where Bishop has an appointment with two sisters who are thinking of buying the place for their retired parents. The women have already seen and liked the downstairs apartment; eagerly, they mount the steps to the second floor. But they are obviously disappointed to find that the upstairs apartment is quite small. "It's sort of cute here," Bishop says nonchalantly, as the sisters explore. Bishop makes no further attempt to talk up the place, and the sisters, looking crushed, soon head back downstairs. "We don't know what to do, Nancy," one of them says. Bishop asks them to consider a condo or a three-bedroom bungalow. After they're gone, Bishop says, "I think they'll find a cute little bungalow, and they'll think it's wonderful."

On our way to a bank to attend a closing (the process by which a house officially changes hands), Bishop runs a couple of errands—depositing a home sale check for a client, picking up photos of newly listed houses. Most Realtors of her stature now have assistants to do this piddling stuff. Bishop, however, has gone through a couple of assistants. "By the time I got through explaining what I wanted, I could have done it myself," she says. Although obviously patient with her clients, she looks slightly annoyed when, absentmindedly, I

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repeat a question. It occurs to me I probably would not last long as her assistant.

At the bank, the seller—a single woman moving out of state—the buyers, another Realtor, and two bank representatives sit around a long table covered with documents. With sadness in her voice, the seller says to the group at large, "I guess this is irrevocable." No one disagrees. In a low, sympathetic voice, Bishop explains several papers, which the woman signs. By the end, the seller seems happier, even chatting with the new owners about her former house. Afterward, she says of Bishop: "She's organized. She knows exactly what she's doing." Former Bishop customer Bob Sherra, an Edison executive, calls Bishop "one of the most knowledgeable and professional people I've ever dealt with."

Several fellow Realtors are less enthusiastic about Bishop, complaining that she creates problems for them by taking a long time returning phone calls. Contritely, Bishop says she's working to correct that; less contritely, she adds, "A lot of Realtors call me with stupid questions." Not surprisingly, many Realtors are jealous of her, complaining that her success has much to do with her moving in the "right" circles. Ray is a prominent local attorney, and they live in Barton Hills.

Bishop, fifty-two, praises her husband for his constant support, but points out that she hasn't gotten a referral through him in at least five years. And when she attends social functions, "I don't even tell people I'm a Realtor unless they ask. My objective is to not be obnoxious."

Bishop grew up in Tecumseh, where her father managed the Quaker Oats plant. In high school she was a top student. She married her first husband at eighteen and raised a son and daughter while they both attended Central Michigan. She earned a secondary teaching certificate and taught English at Dundee High for seven years. As conscientious a teacher as she is a Realtor, she found herself grading papers until two in the morning—and concluded that she was underpaid. Bishop entered a graduate program in guidance and counseling at the U-M, but quit in 1972 to pursue real estate.

When Ed Surovell left Reinhart in 1982 to start his own company, Bishop went with him. "You know, a lot of people love him or hate him," she says of her outspoken and opinionated boss. "We just get along very well. He's probably one of my very best friends."

While making her name as a Realtor, Bishop went through a divorce. She married Ray, a former Washtenaw County assistant prosecutor, in 1979. "He's very kind," she exclaims with warmth, "and very even-keeled."

As hard as she works, Bishop has no desire to slow down. "Do I feel envious that there are people out there going on vacation? I don't care about it right now. Maybe someday I will. But right now, my priority is this, and I really like it."

And, of course, she's really good at it. The Burns Park house sells at its first showing—for $259,000.

FRAN JONES

The doyenne of residential real estate

For almost a week, Fran Jones and I play telephone tag. Even on my voice mail, her exuberant personality comes through: "Eve, I am currently driving just west of Stadium right now. I wasn't able to call you because I had a client with me from morning till evening yesterday, and then I had an appointment in the evening. I would be happy to chat with you about my career and how wonderful it's been and how happy I've been."

She means every word. No wonder. "Fran Jones has sold more real estate than anyone in Washtenaw County," says Dave Lutton of Reinhart, where Jones has been based for twenty-three years. During her career, Jones has closed more than $170 million in transactions, and she plans to put in at least another decade.

Once the undisputed queen of Reinhart, in recent years Jones, fifty-seven, has been challenged for top honors by Elizabeth Brien. Last year, Brien was less than $1 million behind in volume and actually outdid Jones in transactions (seventy versus Jones's sixty-seven). "There's a natural rivalry between those two," says one Reinhart Realtor. But Jones praises Brien, and scoffs at the rivalry. "I'm happy to say there's enough houses for everyone."

Jones and I finally meet at a small home in a subdivision near Briarwood. Jones, who has dark hair and sparkly brown eyes, greets me effusively. "I've been doing this for twenty-five years, and I am still as enthusiastic about real estate buying and selling as when I was new to this business."

She's on hand to tie up loose ends for the anxious young couple who have made a winning offer for the house. Their two small children wander in and out, along with a home inspector and a man conducting a radon test.

Deftly, Jones reviews details of the closing with the couple, who later tell me they are still in "sticker shock" over Ann Arbor house prices. Jones, the husband says gratefully, "has been very patient. She's handled many stressful moments this week."

The stressful moments, it turns out, are not over yet. The sale falls through a few days later. The couple, who apparently had mixed feelings about the house, were further unsettled by problems the home inspector uncovered. (Jones declines to discuss the details.) They decide to forget about buying and continue to rent for awhile.

The usually bubbly Jones sounds disappointed as she discusses the aborted sale. But she remains philosophical. "There's a lot of emotion we're dealing with. There are some peaks and valleys [in real estate]," she says, "but you can't let the valleys get you down."

With over $17 million in sales and sixty-seven transactions last year, Jones is well-equipped to survive the valleys. She also has the reassurance of a solid (and often affluent) customer base built up over her many years in the business. Today, 80 percent of her sales come from either previous customers or their referrals.

Other Realtors are quick to point out that

PETER YATES

Jones handles a lot of "high-ticket" homes. Last year the average selling price of an Ann Arbor home was $169,000. Jones's sales averaged $274,000, behind Nancy Bishop's $295,000, but well ahead of Jeff Tothill's $214,000.

Jones is patient. She helped one man look for a house for eleven years, and she still speaks of him fondly even though he ended up buying directly from a home owner. But what most distinguishes the former cheerleader and Dale Carnegie grad is her determination to sell houses.

She always has a talk with new clients. "I say, 'I'm not going to give you one hundred percent of me. I'm going to give you three hundred percent of me. I'm going to find you that house of your dreams—but what I ask in return is your loyalty.'"

Jones is patient. She helped one man look for a house for eleven years, and she still speaks of him fondly even though he ended up buying directly from a home owner.

Jones was a full-time housewife in Phoenix, Arizona, when she discovered her calling in 1969. Her husband, Paul, had already moved to Ann Arbor ahead of the family to start a new job. He had listed their home with a Realtor, who, Jones recalls indignantly, was doing nothing to sell it. Finally, she and her three young kids showed up unannounced at the startled man's office to demand that he break their contract. "Who's going to help you sell your house?" the Realtor said to her. "Certainly, sir, not you," Jones shot back. Released from the contract, Jones placed a newspaper ad and immediately sold the house. When she triumphantly told her husband about the sale, she mused, "You know, there might be a career in this."

She didn't formally launch her career until three years later, after her youngest entered first grade. In 1972, her first year at the former Scope Davis firm, she did $800,000 in sales. "And that," she points out, "was way back when a big, big sale would be $50,000." Two years later she moved to Reinhart.

Jones embraces a successful Realtor's merciless schedule. Except for church and a regular Friday-night movie-date with her husband, she's out hustling houses. Extremely well-organized, she also possesses an amazing memory. When her assistant, Paula Lawrence, needs a client's phone number, she just asks Jones.

Like all good salespeople, Jones connects strongly to her customers. "I feel she wouldn't let you make a misstep," says one client, pilot Stew Nelson. "She made everything easy, and I don't think I'm an easy person to work with," says nurse Barbara DeLancey, who with her doctor husband bought and sold a home through Jones.

"Many people at Reinhart see [Jones] as a role model," says colleague Rose Hochman. But other Realtors say, off the record, that they think Jones should get a life besides real estate, which, says one person, she "eats, sleeps, drinks, and breathes."

Jones insists she indeed has a life: her Roman Catholicism (she begins each day with a prayer) and her family are anchors. She met Paul—"my Rock of Gibraltar"—when she was still in high school in Philadelphia, where her parents owned a grocery store. She married him two years out of high school. He sends her flowers every month; she cooks him dinner each night when she gets home, usually at 9 p.m. or later. Their three children, now grown, live out of state.

Jones tried managing an office for Reinhart in the mid-1980s, but as a career move, it made no sense. She found herself unable to give up sales, and after three years of divided loyalties, it was administration that had to give. "Evenings and weekends," she recalls, "I was out there selling."

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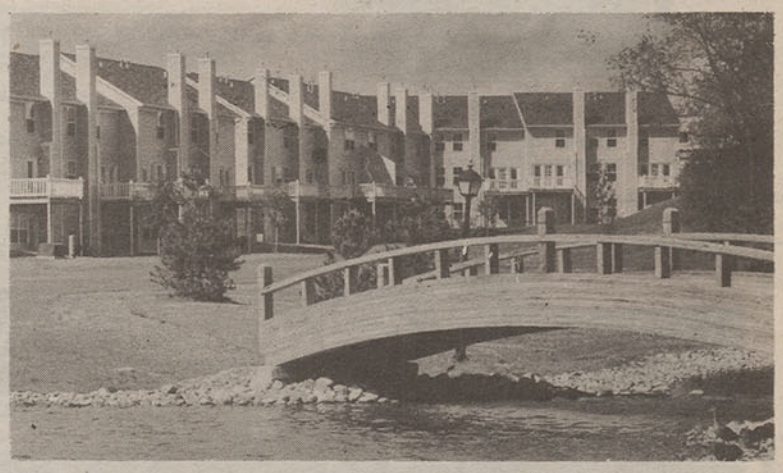

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JEFF TOTHILL

Selling "the new Ann Arbor"

"It's the new Ann Arbor!" declares Jeff Tothill, relaxing (as much as he ever does) in a chair on his sprawling deck. His gesture takes in a man-made lake surrounded by impressive, earth-toned houses that look much like his own, most of them priced at close to half a million dollars.

This is the Lake Forest subdivision, just south of town on Ellsworth Road. Tothill makes a lot of sales here, many to auto executives who commute to metro Detroit. His own home symbolizes his dramatic success. A failed Briarwood retailer, Tothill is now closing in on the number-one sales spot with fire in his eyes.

At times he revels in his success; on other occasions he seems a bit embarrassed by it, stressing that he tries to do nice things for others. He gives to the Christian Children's Fund, and when he makes a good deal, he says, he might do something like call his mom "and buy her a new kitchen."

Just as Lake Forest represents a new Ann Arbor, Tothill, forty-one, represents a new breed of Realtor: the agent as entrepreneur. One of the big changes in modern real estate is that many successful Realtors no longer work alone, but with assistants. While most locals employ one assistant, Tothill has three, including his wife, Sandy. Though all are licensed Realtors, Tothill's assistants do the grunge work.

"Somebody once said to me, 'You're the Michael Jordan—you shouldn't be out there checking somebody's [Open House] signs. You should be right there at the last minute, taking the ball down the court—and taking that shot to win the game,'" he explains.

Tothill "has developed an extremely successful system that enables him to excel as a Realtor," says Gail Sinelli, assistant manager at the Michigan Group, where Tothill has worked for the past eight and a half years. He completed an astonishing one hundred transactions last year, compared to sixty-seven for Fran Jones and seventy-nine for Nancy Bishop.

Some rivals sniff at Tothill's numbers, pointing out that Jones and Bishop built up their formidable sales records with little or no help. But Tothill, a dark-haired, brawny, former triathlon competitor, makes no apologies for operating the equivalent of his own small business under the umbrella of the Michigan Group. One employee handles advertising and promotion; another assigns home photographs and, along with Tothill, shows homes;

SUPERSTAR

PETER YATES

homes; Sandy, his wife of two years, runs the office and handles closings. "Sandy is a big part of Jeff's success," says Tothill, who, like Bob Dole, sometimes speaks of himself in the third person.

Some of Tothill's success can be credited to his obvious hunger for new clients. He advertises heavily. ("Jeff Tothill moved a mountain of homes in 1995," reads one ad.) He tells satisfied customers that he'd appreciate a referral, and to help them remember, he gives them a magnetic notepad with his picture on it.

His large staff impressed Jeanne Gutierrez, an Ann Arborite who recently bought a condo with his help. "They showed up at my doorstep with all the paperwork all the time," she says. Tothill himself impressed her as well.

"I hate Realtors," Gutierrez says. "I was prepared to deal with this terrible person with no ethics or anything." But Tothill, she says, "ended up being this sweet, charming, incredible person." Tothill's computer of a memory (he can recite home addresses of customers he worked with five years ago) also impressed her. On his second call, she says, he went over every issue she'd raised during their previous discussion.

Jeff and Sandy and their two dogs have lived in Lake Forest for almost three years. Their nearly $500,000 home has four bedrooms, four and a half bathrooms, and four fireplaces. Eagerly, Jeff gives me a tour of the scrupulously neat and sparsely furnished home (a downstairs room contains nothing but his golf clubs). He especially likes to play around with the music system—when he clicks a remote, Debby Boone's "You Light Up My Life" floods the deck.

While Tothill clearly enjoys his own sweet piece of Ann Arbor real estate, he insists that his main motivation isn't money but his own competitive instinct. The son of the late Herbert Tothill, a psychologist, and former advertising artist Joyce Tothill Williams, he grew up in Ypsilanti. As a high school student, he so much hated to get Bs that he would crank out as many extra credit assignments as necessary to boost his mark to an A. He graduated as class valedictorian in 1974.

Tothill was less focused in college, transferring from the U-M to the University of Hawaii, which he left without getting a degree. Instead, he returned to Ann Arbor and became an entrepreneur, opening a downtown gift store called Over the Rainbow in 1978. In 1984, he made the big jump to Briarwood, where he opened a gift shop called P.S. I Love You. The ambitious move failed, and Tothill ended up in bankruptcy.

"Bankruptcy is kind of a scary thing," he reflects. "You go to federal court, and you're with drug dealers." In hindsight, however, "it worked out perfectly." Unable to get a job, he went to work selling real estate. "I hit the ground running."

After two unhappy weeks at Reinhart—an experience he's unwilling to discuss on the record—Tothill moved on to the former Group Four real estate firm. He sold $4.5 million his first year. The next year, he and fourteen other Realtors left Group Four for the Michigan Group after a dispute with the owner. The defection helped make the Michigan Group one of the dominant firms in the county.

Stormy departures are fairly common in the edgy real estate business, but Tothill says he never plans to leave the Michigan Group. Asked whether his colleagues are jealous of his astonishing success, he says no, explaining, "I make the phones ring." Another Michigan Group Realtor says that Tothill is helpful and friendly to others in the company, though "he tends to get a little frenzied."

Tothill works mostly out of his home, using his cell phone like a movie mogul. There's nothing glamorous, though, about the hours of sheer hard work. One recent morning, he worried aloud about missing a 6 a.m. phone call because his pager broke.

At times he revels in his success; on other occasions he seems a bit embarrassed by it, stressing that he tries to do nice things for others. He gives to the Christian Children's Fund, and when he makes a good deal, he says, he might do something like call his mom "and buy her a new kitchen."

Tothill recently had to deal with a particularly difficult client, a woman who called him several times a day, each time asking if he'd sold her house yet. Sandy eventually tired of the calls, and asked Jeff to drop the listing—as an anniversary gift to her.

Tothill agreed. The client, he says, "made me so nervous I couldn't do my job." ■

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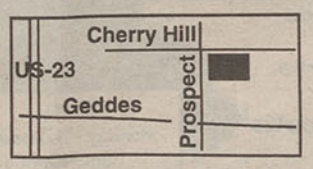

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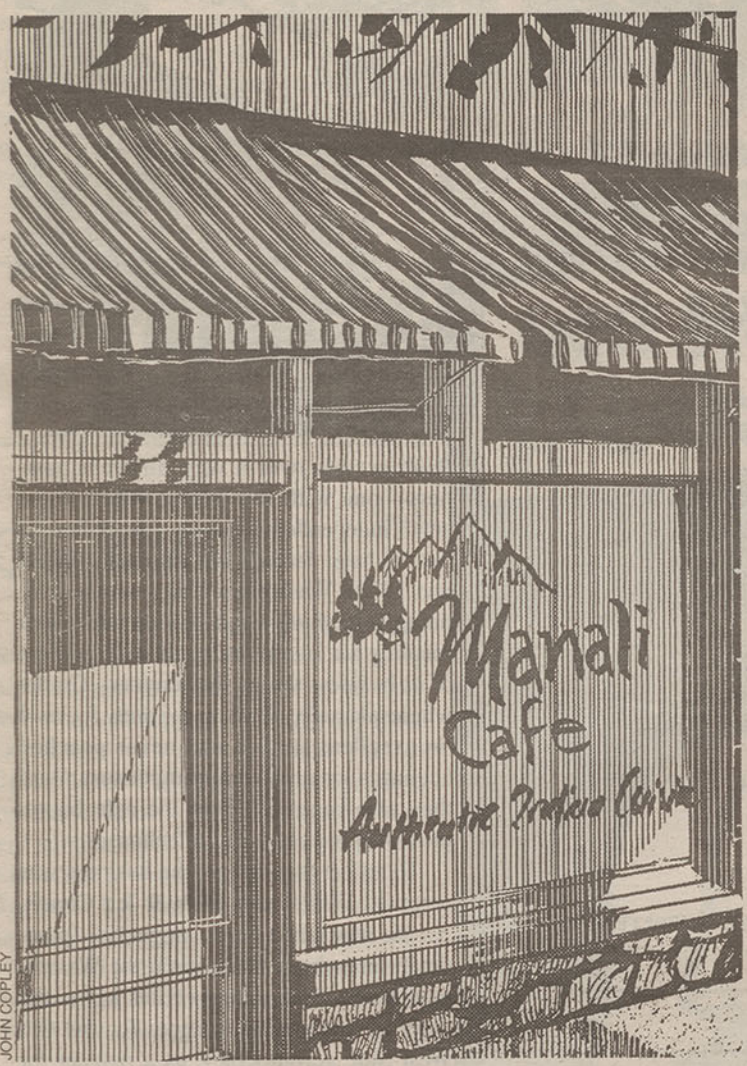

JOHN COPLEY

Manali Cafe

Valley of the gods

The city of Manali in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh is nestled in the Kulu "valley of the gods," at the rarefied entrance to the Himalaya range. This places it geographically and gustatorily between Pakistan, China, Nepal, and Tibet. About the size of Ann Arbor, Manali is a honeymooner's resort, surrounded by snowcapped mountains and lush greenery, with the Beas River standing in for the Huron.

Veena Thapar was born near Manali and lived all over India before moving to the United States in 1967. A professional psychotherapist, she worked in the weight-loss business, dividing her time between the office and the kitchen. Prescribing fresh, unprocessed foods for her clients, Veena reworked recipes from her brother's Indian restaurant in Philadelphia, using only chemical-free foods and creating more labor- and flavor-intensive dishes.

When the Washington-and-Fifth Papa Romano's closed, Veena left psychotherapy for restauranting. She painted the interior orange, hung peshwa tapestries, and added rattan furniture. In February, she quietly opened Manali Cafe, immediately attracting the adventurous palates left wandering since last year's closures of Latdior and Cafe Tibet.

Manali's food is unlike that at Raja Rani, Shehan-Shah, Shalimar, or Mughal Asia. Veena describes her dishes as "home-style" northern Indian cooking, eagerly distinguishing it from the "restaurant-style" *Mughlai* cuisine served elsewhere. This is what folks in Himachal Pradesh eat every day: lentil stews (*dhal*), well-cooked vegetables (*sabzi*), sweet yogurt with vegetables (*raita*), and basmati rice (*chaval*). While southern India is strictly vegetarian, the northern provinces eat chicken, goat, and lamb—never beef!

Lunch at Manali Cafe is rich and subdued. When I visited in March, folks were sampling all of Veena's sandwich roll-ups—chicken, veggie, cheese, tuna—and a *fattoush* straight out of Beirut ($3.99–$5.79). By May everybody was eating the chicken *tikka* sandwich, and with good reason. This popular northern Indian dish marinates breast meat in yogurt and spices, grills and dresses it with a forest of piquant cilantro, and then wraps it in a grilled bread doily peppered with onion seed. The homemade cheese sandwich (*paneer*), cooked gooey with boiled vegetables and more cilantro (the cafe goes through a case of cilantro a week!), runs a distant second to the tikka. Wash this down with *lassi* (a yogurt shake, $2–$2.50). The traditional mango lassi was smooth and cloyingly sweet; the almond variety was grainy and biting from a dash of cardamom. A traditional Indian summer brunch would feature *parautha* (spinach- and onion-stuffed flat bread, $2.99) and a glass of lassi, followed by a long nap.

Lentils are the central foodstuff of northern India—and the central feature of Manali dinners. Like Blue Nile next door, there is a single, binary choice for dinner: vegetarian ($6.99) or non ($8.99); but unlike next door, the meat is worthwhile. Both dinner choices feature the dhal du jour, a stewed vegetable, a nutty basmati rice and *naan* (soft Indian pita) to mop it all up, and raita to cool and cleanse the palate. In the winter, Veena served the heavier black *urad saboot*, smoky whole black lentils in a thin broth. By summer it was a thicker *chana* dhal of yellow chickpeas, turmeric, ginger, and coriander: subcontinental refrieds.

Manali offers two vegetable choices, but one is always a squeaky curried potato with tomatoes, onions, and mustard seed. (A customer promised Veena, "If you keep that on your menu, I'll be here every week"—and made good.) Diane raved over the stewed eggplant and peas, a deep green magma with the slowest burn of any spicy dish I've ever tried. Minutes after eating, palate and lips begin to tingle, and the sinuses become infused with warmth. Veena insists there is no black or red pepper in the dish; its unique flavor and fire come from a combination of a dozen different spices.

The carnivore option is worth the premium (portions appear small but are so rich and filling there are usually leftovers). Lamb *rogan josh* was a Delhi Dinty Moore of cubed meat and potatoes in hearty gravy. The marinated chicken was a firebomb that had us shoveling rice and raita. Veena recently created a blue-plate special (*thali*): add an appetizer and dessert to your entree for only $2. Crisp wafer-thin lentil chips (*papads*) and stuffed phyllo triangles (*samosas*) make a nice snack ($1.25 à la carte). For dessert, fried dough balls in syrup (*golab jamin*, $1.75) or a thin rice pudding (*kheer*, $2) are an after-dinner anticlimax.

Service is laid-back, so don't go if you're in a rush. Veena cooks everything to order and often serves it herself. Her daughter Vandala also works there and shares her mother's warmth and hospitality. Manali Cafe reminded Diane of the "Mama's kitchen" atmosphere of Michelle Roman's La Fiesta Mexicana or Kun Hi Ko's Kana. This is nourishment in the fullest sense: food as an adventure, as an education, and as therapy.

Manali Cafe
225 East Washington 662–2499
Hours: Tues.–Fri. 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m. & 5–9:30 p.m. (Fri. till 10:30 p.m.), Sat. noon–10:30 p.m., Sun. 4–9 p.m. Closed Mondays.

Washtenaw Dairy

"Poor man's country club"

In 1934, Washtenaw Dairy sold milk, cream, butter, eggs, and a little ice cream, mostly wholesale. Doug Raab and the late Jim Smith Jr. were the store's first employees. The business thrived during the war and the baby boom, and in the 1960s, Raab and Smith bought out their bosses just before the dairy industry went through a major consolidation.

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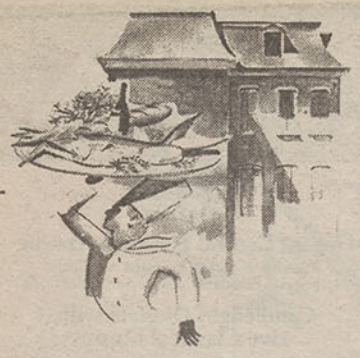

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JOHN COPLEY

Raab preside over a very different business—one with few peers. Where most small independents closed or were bought out by huge factory dairies in the 1960s and 1970s, Washtenaw Dairy survived by doing something small dairies rarely did: retailing ice cream (as much as 50 percent of its business during the summer). On the wholesale side, Raab and Smith focused on excellent service and never poached accounts or undercut competitors. And they also benefited from the cafe boom, providing milk to area coffeehouses.

To reflect the change, the business was renamed Washtenaw Milk & Ice Cream, but the new name never caught on—practically everybody still calls it the Washtenaw Dairy. Today, most folks know the dairy as a venerable hangout for the Old West Side gerontocracy, as a magnet for kids, as a quick cooldown stop for bikers, and for the unarguably largest single scoop ever to teeter on a cone. Indeed, a $1.75 single from Washtenaw Dairy is as big as a $3.50 Baskin Robbins triple, whose icy globes have an uncanny knack for attracting linoleum.

Every day except Christmas, Raab opens the store at 5 a.m., as he has for sixty years. The dairy business is a morning-person's game, and Raab has it down. In the old days he'd start the day's ice cream, load the trucks, and put on the coffee for the morning crowd (some regulars have been coming as long as Raab has been around).

Now it's the doughnuts that get started first thing. The morning kaffeeklatsch loiters at two long tables, swapping stories and guzzling endless free refills. Rudy Janci is usually there by 7 a.m. (it's a long walk from Lurie Terrace), armed with the stories of his exploits as a World War II flyer. The group hangs out until lunchtime, getting a kick out of watching the kids. Smith calls it a "poor man's country club."

There's not much ice cream sold on the dawn patrol, but I happened by one morning when the Roloff truck was unloading. Roloff makes the Miller brand. By the time Washtenaw Dairy stopped making ice cream altogether in 1973, it was getting half of its ice cream from Miller's. Today, Smith and Raab sample broadly to get the best flavors: London makes the best butter pecan; Roloff supplies the vanilla.

When school starts in the fall, the ice cream men feel like turkey farmers the

day after Thanksgiving. But this is also when the restaurant and cafe business ramps up, and Washtenaw Dairy shifts into wholesale mode, doing 85 percent of its business out the back door. The long tables still play host to the regulars, many of whom remember when those towering single cones cost 12¢. Occasionally one of them will order a scoop with a doughnut, and Smith will come out from behind the counter to join them.

Washtenaw Dairy
602 South Ashley **662–3244**
Hours: Daily 5 a.m.–8 p.m. (till 10 p.m. during the summer).

Quick Bites

While the world waits to see whether democracy and finance can survive Hong Kong's return to China, Quick Bites wonders what will happen to Hong Kong food. Expatriate restaurateur Roger Tam of **Great Lake Chinese Seafood** predicts that the former colony's unique cuisine will survive, even as its politics and economics are overrun by the mainland. **Kai Garden**'s Kai Tus concurs: "Hong Kong food will be Hong Kong food." Chefs may have to add Szechuan and Hunan dishes to their menus, but the distinctively lighter, fruitier Hong Kong fare will remain.

❧❧❧

Zingerman's moved over a thousand of its Dancing Sandwiches™ at this year's Ann Arbor Summer Festival. Choreographed for those miscreants who disdain Zingerman's gargantuan sandwiches, these more "human-sized" buns feature all of the same sandwich ingredients—such as John Loomis's fresh mozzarella, Emmenthaler Swiss, real Genoa salami, and Arkansas peppered ham—in ten varieties daily for $5–$6. Now that the Summer Festival is over, the sandwiches dance at Zingerman's and Stucchi's.

Zingerman's has sold the same sandwiches for years but previously called them *panini* (little Italian sandwiches). After Zing's renamed its version, Marcus Goller rolled out panini at all twenty of his **Espresso Royale Caffes** nationwide. Goller's are smaller, cheaper ($2) sandwiches—more quick bite than a meal—layering savories like roasted red peppers, Alouette cheese, and mango chutney, with cold cuts on Goller's own crusty seeded whole wheat. "Bread is the key," Goller stresses. When a supplier left him in the lurch, he prepared hundreds of buns in his own kitchen to take up the slack.

❧❧❧

The Quick Bites Food Gossip Hotline is seeking nominations for Mr./Ms. Goodbartender 1997. Leave voice mail at 769–3175, ext. 419, or send E-mail to dcb@msen.com.

—David C. Bloom

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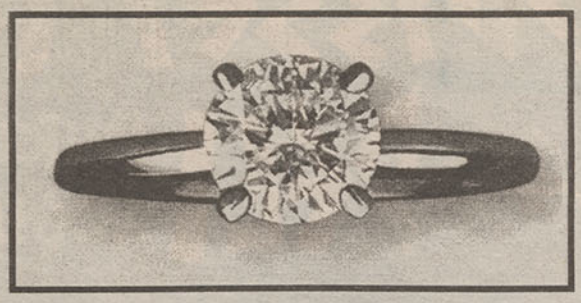

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MARKETPLACE CHANGES

An emerging culinary superpower

With 5 more openings, the Asian restaurant count hits 52!

Asian cuisine is the emerging superpower on the Ann Arbor dining scene. When the remodeling dust clears, five new restaurants will have opened for business this summer: Chee Peng Chinese Restaurant in the Clarion Hotel, Golden Bridge Restaurant in the Quality Inn, Weng's Kitchen in the Maple-Miller shopping center, Panda House in Maple Village, and Saica in the Courtyard Shops.

Back in the early 1960s, Leo Ping's Chinese-American restaurant, on Liberty near State Street, was Ann Arbor's sole outpost of Asian cuisine. With this round of openings, the forthcoming 1997–1998 Ann Arbor Observer City Guide will list fifty-two Asian restaurants, encompassing Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Korean, and Thai cuisines.

Despite the high number, the five new restaurateurs say they see opportunity, not saturation, in Ann Arbor. One reason, they say, is the current trend toward healthier eating. Asian cuisine—with its emphasis on fresh vegetables, smaller meat portions, and quick cooking to seal in vitamins and nutrients—is very much in harmony with that trend.

Another attraction is variety. "Every Oriental food tastes different," says Pow Kue, who opened **Chee Peng Chinese Restaurant** in May. The menu at Chee Peng has about 100 items, with dishes ranging from sweet-and-sour chicken with rice and soup ($6.99) to lobster royal ($14.99). Most of the cooking is Mandarin or Cantonese, but there are also twenty-two Thai dishes, reflecting the backgrounds of Kue and his chef, Michael Yang. Kue was born in Laos of Chinese parents and raised in Thailand and Detroit; Yang worked at Bangkok Hung restaurant in Southfield before coming to Chee Peng.

Kue sees many advantages to his location. The Clarion's restaurant, which seats seventy, was already fully equipped and needed little remodeling. (Back in the 1980s, when the hotel was a Holiday Inn, the restaurant enjoyed a moment of fame as a nouvelle cuisine spot called Savorys.) Though Kue has no liquor license, customers can buy liquor at the hotel bar and bring it into the restaurant.

Kue and his wife, Saymour, own another Chee Peng in Three Rivers, Michigan, and their relatives own a Chee Peng in Petoskey. "During one week about thirteen years ago, the Chee Peng in Petoskey ran a test of over three hundred dishes," Kue says. "We narrowed down the seventy most popular items from that. Gai kow, sweet-and-sour chicken, and moo goo gai pan were the best-sellers then, and they still are."

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Wendy Weng met her husband, Eric Wang, when they both worked in a Chinese restaurant in Jersey City. She's from Mongolia, he's from southern China.

Across town, another former Holiday Inn restaurant is also turning Chinese. **Golden Bridge Restaurant,** featuring Thai, Chinese, and American food, is located in what is now a Quality Inn near the intersection of Washtenaw and US-23. During its Holiday Inn days, the restaurant had several successful incarnations, including the Flaming Pit and the Gollywobbler, but the kitchen has been closed for the past four years and was in disrepair.

"We had to replace all of the drywall, paint the bar, dining room, and banquet room, and repair several appliances before we could open—at a cost of about fifty-eight thousand dollars," says owner-chef Bee Lee. The restaurant, now done in jade green and black, can seat 200, while the bar holds 198 and the banquet room 150. It is a significant jump from Lee's other restaurant, China Palace in Big Rapids, which seats a total of 140.

Lee, thirty-one, was born in Laos and grew up in Colorado. He has signed a three-year lease with the Quality Inn and is counting on the bar and banquet room to make it all profitable. "There are plenty of Chinese restaurants in Ann Arbor, but I am emphasizing the bar," he says. He plans to have karaoke on Wednesday nights, ladies' night on Thursdays, and live music on the weekends.

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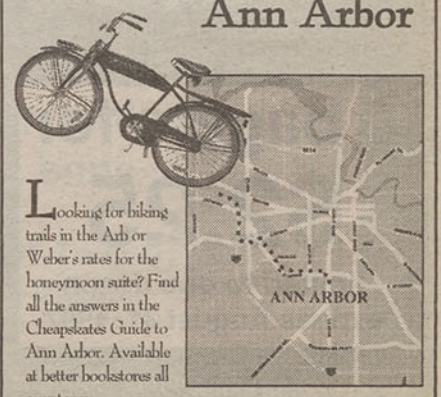
Cheapskates Guide to Ann Arbor



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Wendy Weng is the co-owner and namesake of **Weng's Kitchen** in the Maple-Miller shopping center. Weng and her husband, Eric Wang, have a soft spot for Chinese restaurants. Weng, who was born in Mongolia, and Wang, who is from southern China, met when both worked at Neptune, a Chinese restaurant in Jersey City.

The couple moved to Ann Arbor two years ago for Wang's job as an engineering research associate at the U-M. Although Wang supervised the remodeling of the restaurant space, he plans to stay on at the U-M. Weng, however, has left her day job in the finance department at the U-M Medical School to run the restaurant full-time.

Weng's sister, Yuan-Xia Weng, is a partner in the restaurant, and her brother-in-law, Song Lin, is the chef. Though the space is just 1,000 square feet, the partners have invested more than $60,000 remodeling it. An open kitchen is a focal point in design as well as function. "In Chinese restaurants, a lot of equipment goes into a tiny space," says Wang, rattling off a list that includes a freezer, a cooler, six burners for woks, a smoker, a commercial rice cooker, a steam table, two deep fryers, four sinks, and a twenty-three-foot-long hood with heavy-duty exhaust fans.

There are a half dozen other Chinese restaurants within a mile of Weng's Kitchen, including Chee Peng and another new arrival, Panda House. But Wang seems undaunted by the competition. "The foot traffic near the Maple-Miller plaza doesn't have a Chinese restaurant," he points out. He hopes to win diners with an emphasis on speed, convenience, and healthy preparation.

Lunch-on-the-run specials are priced at $5 (including rice and a choice of soup or egg roll), and there is free delivery for orders of $8 or more. "People in Ann Arbor are very familiar with Chinese food," Wang says. "We're aiming at quality and health by using the freshest ingredients, offering a variety of daily specials, and steaming more dishes than many other Chinese restaurants do."

Early this year, Yuming and Quin Weng, their twenty-two-year-old daughter Tanya, their seventeen-year-old son Chin Chun, and Quin's brother Ji-Hua Lian moved to Ann Arbor to open **Panda House.** Since 1992 the Wengs (no relation to Wendy Weng) have owned a restaurant in Anderson, Indiana, but they turned over its day-to-day management to a cousin in order to focus on the Ann Arbor restaurant, which is next to the Fox Village Theater at Maple Village. "This [is] a good city. Pretty and safe," says Quin, who was born in Hong Kong.

The family has done most of the remodeling themselves to save money. Still, they estimate their cost at about $150,000. They have created two rooms out of the 2,200-square-foot space: a small entry room for carryout orders, and a larger, airy dining room that seats about fifty.

Panda House has the biggest menu of the new restaurants, with 226 items representing Mandarin, Cantonese, Szechuan, and Hunan cuisine. It also appears to have the most competitive prices. A combination plate of the ever-popular moo goo gai pan (with egg roll and roast pork fried rice) is $5.95. A creation with the picturesque name "seven star around the moon," consisting of lobster meat, pork, chicken breast fillet, and assorted Chinese vegetables, surrounded by seven deep-fried jumbo shrimp, sets the uppermost end of the price range at $15.95. The Wengs' future plans include obtaining a liquor license and offering delivery service.

Jae Jin Lee offers another reason for the large increase in the number of Asian restaurants: Ann Arbor's growing Asian population, which he estimates at about 15,000. Lee (no relation to Bee Lee) knows many of those residents already because he owns Manna International Market, the Asian grocery beside the Broadway Kroger.

Now, after nearly a year of delays and a falling-out with his contractor, the thirty-two-year-old native of Seoul, Korea, is launching his own restaurant, **Saica,** in the Courtyard Shops on Plymouth Road. It features only one dish, *shabu-shabu,* a Japanese "fondue"—customers cook bits of meat, noodles, and vegetables in a richly flavored, bubbling seaweed broth.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

"We want to keep Seva 'Seva,'" promises new owner Maren Jackson.

Shabu-shabu, says Lee, is very popular in Korea and China as well as in Japan. "Everybody likes shabu-shabu. There is nothing like it in middle America, not in Detroit or Chicago, anywhere. I saw two restaurants in L.A., but that is all."

Saica, named after the color of a flower, seats twenty-three people. Most of the seats are clustered at a sushi-type bar, under a large exhaust hood, but there are some individual tables as well. The exhaust system is complicated. "That alone costs over a hundred thousand dollars," according to Lee.

Shabu-shabu with a salad costs $9.95; a complete meal with appetizer, salad, and dessert is $13.95. Saica has a karaoke system, which is available for parties, and Lee's future plans include extending the hours, obtaining a liquor license, and attracting private parties.

Amidst all of this expansion, there has been one casualty. **Modern Kitchen,** the Chinese restaurant located in Wolverine Tower by Briarwood, closed after losing its lease. (The building was purchased by the U-M several years ago.) Owners Sinnasone Inhmathong and Vasanna Srisaengyof, who also own the Thai and Lao grocery on Packard, are scouting new quarters. They are looking for a location closer to Main Street, with a liquor license and more space.

Chee Peng Chinese Restaurant, 2900 Jackson Road (Clarion Hotel), 669–8871. Mon.–Sat. 7 a.m.–10 p.m., Sun. 7 a.m.–noon.

Golden Bridge Restaurant, 3750 Washtenaw Avenue (Quality Inn), 971–6000. Daily 7 a.m.–10 p.m.

Weng's Kitchen, 1506 North Maple (Maple-Miller), 669–8889. Mon.–Sat. 11:30 a.m.–10 p.m. (Fri. & Sat. till 11 p.m.), Sun. noon–10 p.m.

Panda House, 385 North Maple (Maple Village), 662–1818, 662–1862. Mon.–Sat. 10:30 a.m.–10 p.m. (Fri. & Sat. till 11 p.m.), Sun. 11:30 a.m.–10 p.m.

Saica, 1735 Plymouth Road (Courtyard Shops), phone number not available at press time. Probable hours: Daily 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. & 5–9 p.m.

—Linda R. Benson

At Seva, new owners and a new look

Steve Bellock takes a sabbatical

"I started working here in seventy-nine," says Maren Jackson of **Seva.** "I was renting an apartment and next door was this groovy little vegetarian restaurant, and I walked in and was hired on the spot. I'd graduated from college in Illinois with a biology degree, moved to Ann Arbor, and figured I probably wasn't going to get a job as a biologist, so I went to engineering school and worked at Seva. About halfway through, I decided I didn't want to be an engineer. I wanted to be a cook!"

Jackson became Seva's chef and has been at the Liberty Street restaurant ever since. Now she and her husband, Jeff, have bought the business from founder Steve Bellock.

The Jacksons' imprint is already visible. Gone is the market (originally called Soybean Cellars, then Seva Market). Gone, too, is the cluttered poster board next to the women's rest room. Would-be shoppers and posterers can instead enjoy the new bar area, where the market once stood. The room's an interesting mix of bistro and breakfast nook, with cool, mint-condition 1950s chairs that the owners found downstairs—a relic of the building's days as a VFW hall. (The VFW still owns the building, which also houses Mainstreet Comedy Showcase in the basement.)

Without the shelves and coolers, the front room at Seva has a new peacefulness. The renovation uncovered old barn wood along the west wall, and decorated with soothing watercolors, the effect is welcoming. According to Jeff, many people don't realize that the restaurant has had a full liquor license since 1983. For years, you could order only wine, beer, or the occasional margarita with your burrito or Persea sandwich. The new bar is a triple threat: liquor bar, cappuccino bar, and juice bar.

Maren and Jeff had been working at Seva for years, had married and had two children, when Bellock, who started Seva in 1973, began talking about selling. There was much interest, says Maren, but not the right kind. "No one wanted to keep it as Seva. They just wanted the liquor license," she says. "We want to keep Seva 'Seva.' The menu's the same, the staff's the same, we've just added things we thought would be great improvements."

Those improvements include removing the dropped ceiling to open up the kitchen, and making the space easier for tofu-laden servers to negotiate. They're considering the possibility of adding breakfast daily, opening at 8 or 9 a.m. According to Maren, their vision for the new Seva is to have the juice bar, cappuccino bar, and bar bar become an integral part of the Seva experience. "Maybe we'll stay open a little later," she muses, "coordinating with the comedy club. Maybe we'll have the deck open later. But as far as the restaurant and the menu, we'll keep doing what we do best: really great vegetarian food."

On the flip side of the transaction, of course, is Bellock. After nearly three decades in the restaurant business, he's taking a break. He's happy to be handing the restaurant over to people who know it and understand it so well. "The most important thing is how comfortable it felt to sell to them," says Bellock. "Maren had worked for me for seventeen years, and it just felt real comfortable to know that what I put so much time and effort into was going to be left in the best possible hands."

Selling Seva has had some unexpected perks. "It's great to be able to go there as a customer!" says Bellock. "I show up at the restaurant and eat lunch and it is really, really weird. I sit down and eat it. I can eat all the things on the menu that I never re-

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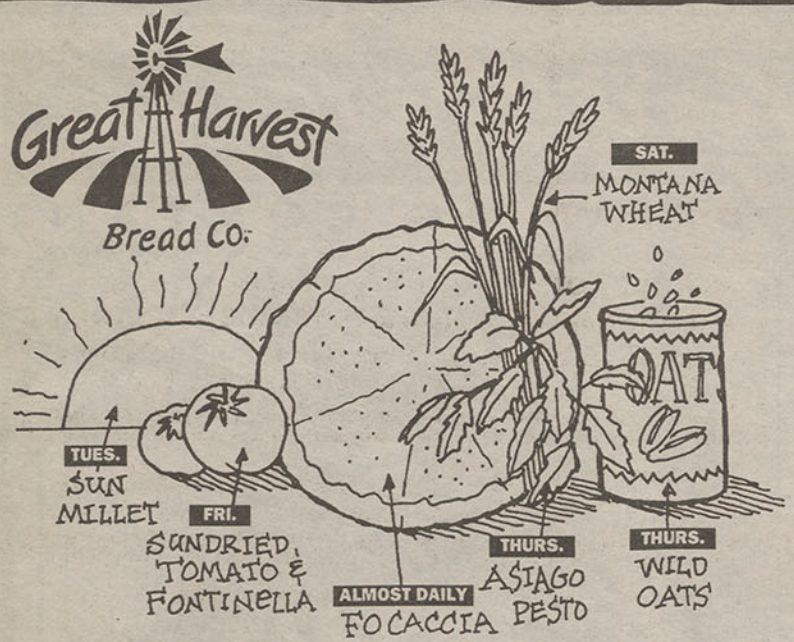

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ally ate because I never had the time."

For the immediate future, says Bellock, "I have no plans. I made a commitment to myself and my family to stop and take a sabbatical and think about life for a while. I've been working since I was twenty-one." (The first two incarnations of Seva were in Columbus, Ohio, in 1971 and 1972.) "That's a pretty long run for a restaurant owner. No one seems to disagree. Even my dad, a 'Go get 'em, come on, tiger, go!' type, says, 'Relax. You've earned it.'"

Seva, 314 East Liberty, 662–1111. Mon.–Sat. 11 a.m.–9 p.m. (Fri. & Sat. till 10 p.m.), Sun. brunch 10 a.m.–3 p.m., dinner 3–9 p.m.

—Whitley Hill

Brewbakers bakes first, then brews

A sunken biergarten at Kerrytown

On a steamy afternoon in the smoldering close of June, Barry Seifer, all smiles, schlepped a seventy-pound hunk of iron and copper down the concrete steps to the Fourth Avenue entrance of his day-old brewery-bakery. "It's an explosion-proof pump," he beamed. It's just the latest gizmo in the Rube Goldbergian venture he launched with partner Sarah Minor and a group of investors. In the preceding months **Brewbakers** already had seen the installation of a twenty-ton Spanish oven, huge Oregonian brewing vats, a German bottling line, and a Canadian grain silo (the pump was from Pennsylvania).

On opening day, baker Steve Smith removed baguettes and whole wheats from his forge, filling glass cases and pine cabinets with the freshest of breads. Brewbakers bakes country-style French breads, which have a higher moisture content than the French city breads that are typically bought and consumed daily. The sourdough and wheat rounds have a lovely spiral indentation from Smith's willow proofing baskets. The stuffed breads open their innards to full view. In fact, everything about Brewbakers hollers, "Look at me!"

Clearly a NAFTA beneficiary, Brewbakers uses only organic, high-protein flour from Canada—unbleached white and sifted whole wheat. Smith and Seifer studied with master baker Benoit Fradette at his bakery, Le Fromentier ("the fermenter"), in Montreal. On his last visit there, Smith brought back a culture of Fradette's five-year-old sourdough starter. The sourdough passed muster with a former San Franciscan, though she said it could be even riper. (Where Brewbakers sourdough is a kindergartner, some Bay-area bread cultures are a century old.)

Brewbakers also bakes a very fruity raisin bread; an à la provençal bread stuffed with Gruyère, olives, garlic, and herbs; and several varieties of *fogliasse* (foal-YAHS), Italian stuffed bread. On pump day, I sampled a pungent wedge of oven-roasted tomato and goat cheese bread; the next day Smith was doing kalamatas and feta. Fogliasse are $3.50–$5. Bread prices are also reasonable: one-pound (450 g.) loaves run $2.85–$3.85, while pound-and-a-half (650 g.) loaves go up to $4.85. Baguettes are $3, and a raisin "mini" can be had for $2.

Brewbakers started brewing in July with an ambitious *Helles*, a malty, light German summer ale. A Michigan raspberry ale, a Pacific coast pale ale, and an English chestnut premium ale (similar to an American amber) come next.

Smith will use wort (unfermented beer) in place of water in many of the bread recipes to boost sweetness and nutritive qualities. But Seifer has reconsidered his initial idea to recycle spent grain from the brewery in Brewbakers bread. "Spent grain is just that: spent," says Seifer. "It's great for fiber, but all the nutrients are in the beer. You may as well put sawdust in your bread." Instead, brewer Matt Allyn hopes to find an area pig farmer who will take the spent grain for feed.

Umbrellas are sprouting in the sunken patio at the west end of Kerrytown. Brewbakers' license allows beer to be consumed on the premises, and the patio and indoor drink rail encourage loitering. Brewbakers will also brew soft drinks—a ginger beer and a root beer for starters—for underage drinkers. "The goal here was to have a small-scale, very-high-quality operation," enthuses Seifer. "We went into this knowing that if you build it, they will come."

Brewbakers, 410 North Fourth Avenue, 327–0772. Tues.–Sat. 9 a.m.–7 p.m. Closed Sundays and Mondays.

—David C. Bloom

Briefly Noted

At twelve years of age, the **Merkel Furniture & Floor Store** on East Stadium is the youngest member of a Chelsea family business that has survived three generations. Now, for the first time in the company's seventy-three-year history, someone who isn't named Merkel will be at the helm.

Make that two someones: Doug Carlson, who runs the Ann Arbor store, and Fred Zuidveld (pronounced ZUD-feld), who's in charge of flooring installation both here and in Chelsea. The third partner in the business is Tim Merkel, who continues the family line that started when his grandfather founded the Chelsea Merkel store in 1924.

The Merkel family has long been a major player in the village of Chelsea, where Tim's great-grandfather built what is now the northern third of the Merkel store in 1901. The family got into retail when a gas station tenant on the building's street level went out of business and abandoned its stock of tires, farm machinery, and hardware. Tim's grandfather Ferdinand

and his great-uncle Norbert (known to family, friends, and just about everyone else in Chelsea as Ferd and Norb) offered to step in and see if they could make something of the store.

What they made, as it turned out, was a very profitable hardware store—so profitable that the Merkel brothers began to stock furniture as well. They soon began buying out neighboring businesses to make room for their growing inventory: the local pool parlor was absorbed, then a barber shop, then the Maccabee lodge, which served as the village dance hall. Ferd and Norb bought Chelsea's first movie house and took over the space once occupied by a funeral home. Soon, the old freight elevator in the center of the newly expanded building was hauling sofas and bedroom sets instead of coffins and backhoes.

By 1963, when Ferd and Norb turned the business over to Ferd's sons, Jack and Bob, the furniture end of the business was eclipsing the hardware. The new generation of Merkels traded in hardware for custom floor coverings, opened the Ann Arbor store, and continued to acquire Chelsea real estate.

Today, both Merkel stores are staffed by designers trained not just to sell furniture and floor coverings but to decorate entire businesses and homes. The company makes regular shipments to customers in Europe, and on at least one occasion, Japan.

"Business has never been better," Jack says, but at sixty-seven, he and Bob, sixty-six, are ready to retire. On June 1 they sold the remaining shares of stock to the new owners in what was the final phase of a seven-year buyout. The brothers continue on as consultants, and they retain ownership of the Chelsea building.

Merkel's new owners say they don't plan to make any dramatic changes at either the Chelsea or the Ann Arbor stores. They expect the transition to be a smooth one. "Fred and Doug and I have been managing the day-to-day activities of the company for the past few years," Tim Merkel points out. "We don't expect this to be a huge change for us or our staff."

Tim has four brothers and a handful of cousins, but none of them chose a career in the furniture business. Does he feel a little lonely being the first Merkel in the company's history without a relative by his side? He laughs. "I feel very fortunate," he says. "I was able to choose my partners."

Merkel Floor Store, 2420 East Stadium, Ann Arbor, 971–2795. Mon., Thurs., & Fri. 9:30 a.m.–8:30 p.m., Tues. & Wed. 9:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m., Sat. 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m.

—Laura McReynolds

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

"The used-CD market is really taking off," says Disc Go Round franchisee David Hochberg. His South U store is part of a 130-unit chain based in Minneapolis.

Having to replace records and cassette tapes with pricey CDs has been a significant pain in the pocketbook, but at least the silver saucers are virtually indestructible. And that's good news for an aftermarket in used CDs.

Disc Go Round, which opened its doors on South University in mid-July, is the latest used-CD outlet to hit Ann Arbor. The clean, well-lit operation is part of a 130-store chain (four in Michigan so far) franchised from Grow Biz International of Minneapolis, which also franchises the "used" concept in children's clothes (Once Upon a Child on Washtenaw), sports equipment (Play It Again Sports at Westgate Shopping Center), musical instruments (Music Go Round at Oak Valley Center), and computers (Computer Renaissance at the Colonnade).

Disc Go Round franchisee David Hochberg will pay up to $5 for used CDs and sell them for under $8. He also supplies in-store computers on which customers can search his entire stock of over 10,000 CDs. If he doesn't have the CD you're looking for, he'll take your name and call you when it comes in. "There's a good chance it'll come through here because just about everything comes through here," he says.

According to Hochberg, people sell their CDs for many reasons: they need the money, they don't like the particular cuts as much as they used to, or they made a mistake when they bought it. Why would anyone buy a used CD? Because at about half the price, the sound quality is as good as new. In fact, Hochberg offers a money-back guarantee that every disc will play like new. His own customers, however, won't be likely to regret their purchases because the store provides eight personal listening stations so they can test before they buy. "You can pull up a stool and spend the entire day listening," Hochberg says.

Not surprisingly, the campus area store's stock is heavy on alternative rock,

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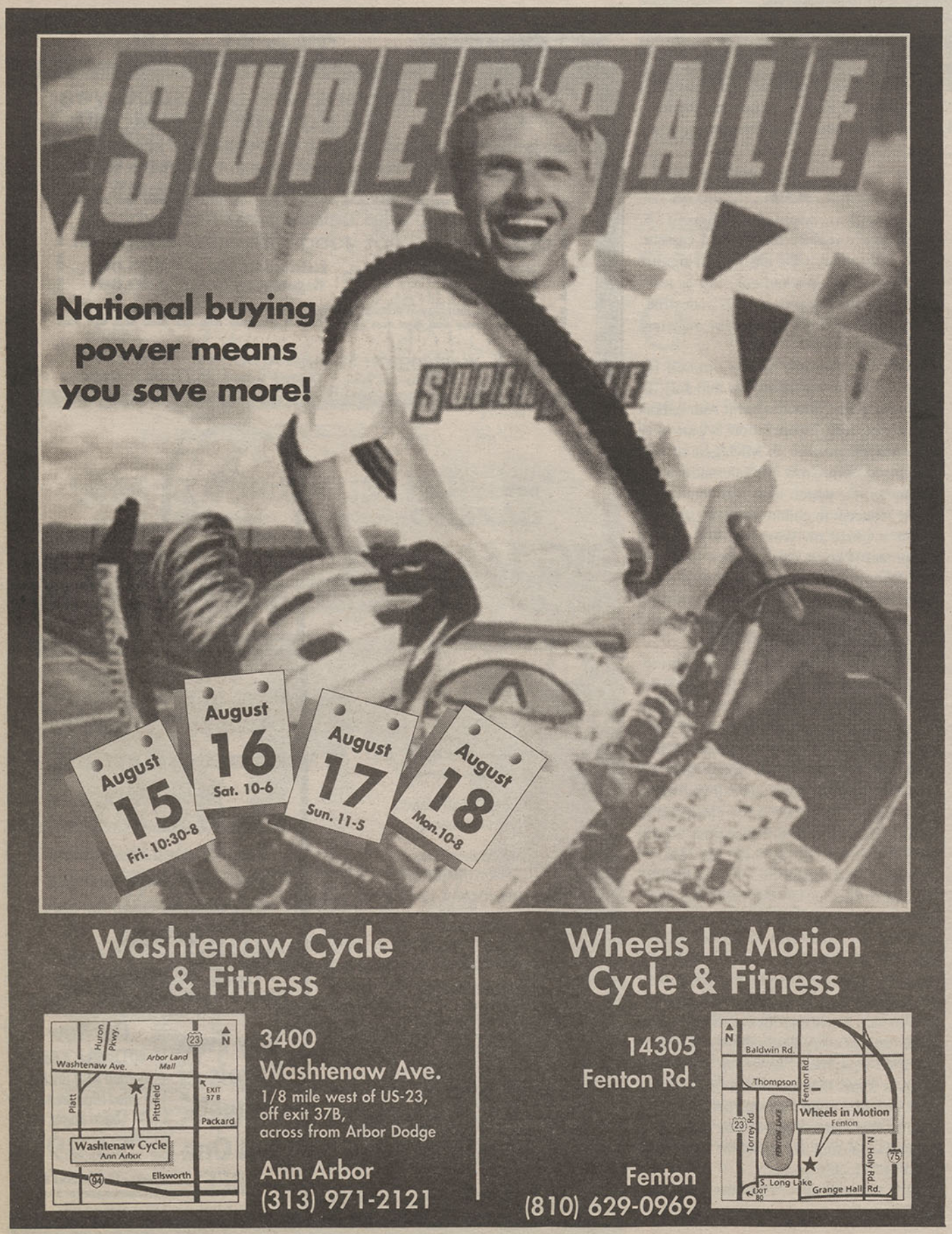
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MARKETPLACE CHANGES *continued*

rhythm and blues, and rap. Old standards in jazz and classical music are harder to come by. But Hochberg has music for all of his customers, who range, he says, from eight to seventy years old.

The new-CD market has been in the doldrums since Pearl Jam, according to Hochberg, "but the used-CD market is really taking off."

Disc Go Round, 1203 South University, 996–9010. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–9 p.m. (Fri. & Sat. till midnight), Sun. noon–5 p.m.

—Sally Seymour

Daryl and Kay Hurst have an affinity for the area within a square mile of the Westgate Shopping Center. They were born and bred inside the perimeter, and they went to school together, married, and raised their daughter there. (Angelina is now a fifth grader at Haisley, the same elementary school her dad attended.)

Even more remarkable, for more than twenty years, the Hursts have conducted all of their commercial ventures within that same square mile. They started out in 1975 in a booth in Westgate, selling magic tricks and party favors. At subsequent locations at Maple Village and Stadium Center, their product line gradually evolved from magic to party products to primarily balloons. On July 8, the latest incarnation, **IncrediBalloons,** returned to Westgate—just two addresses from their original location.

Daryl started doing magic tricks in seventh grade. By his freshman year in high school, the city hired him to do shows in parks around town. Magic eventually took him all over the country, but after Angelina was born, he wanted to get off the road. Even his "serious" career, though, had a magical element: he decided to sell party favors and balloons.

The shift to balloons as the primary focus was cemented last year, when Pioneer Balloon Co., a major manufacturer, bought the business. It's an experimental relationship—Pioneer doesn't own any other retail stores—but so far, it's working well. Pioneer's capital helped the Hursts make the move to the larger Westgate space.

Pioneer is onto something, Daryl believes. Balloon shops will be "as popular as florists in a few years," he predicts. He and assistant Adrian Schoenherr are both certified (via tests and peer review) as balloon sculptors by the Balloon Association of America. (Kay is just short of final certification.) IncrediBalloons has made custom balloon arrangements for everything from bar mitzvahs to weddings to college luaus. Daryl says he's even taken orders for a few funerals, when a family "wants to celebrate the life, not the death, of the deceased."

There is a school of thought that releasing balloons is hazardous to the environment, but Daryl contests this notion. Because rubber balloons are a natural product, he says, "they are biodegradable, not harmful to birds or animals. Once released, they disintegrate in the atmosphere

and fall in fragments to earth." But foil balloons are another story: "They should never be released. They need to be disposed of safely, with the trash. Balloons are not for permanence. They're to make you feel good right now—and they serve that purpose well."

IncrediBalloons, 2463 West Stadium (Westgate Shopping Center), 668–6092. Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m.–8 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

—Alice Grant Bingner

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In June, a friend described an interesting conversation she'd had with a waiter at the **Gandy Dancer.** Surprised to hear that no draft beer was available, the friend learned from the waiter that the Depot Street destination was being sold to a Chicago company, and the new owners were planning to temporarily shut down the bar area for remodeling.

The Gandy Dancer was opened in 1970 by the Muer family, which has been in the seafood restaurant business for three generations. But just over four years ago, Chuck Muer and his wife, Betty, were lost at sea while sailing off the coast of Florida, and speculation has swirled ever since over the fate of the company.

Sure enough, in mid-June, *Crain's Detroit Business* broke the news that majority interest in the C. A. Muer Corporation "is being purchased by a pair of investment companies from New York and Chicago for $44.35 million." *Crain's* source was a March 17 letter sent by Muer Corporation lawyers to the state Liquor Control Commission. A Muer press release soon confirmed the report and added that company president Leo Beil was retiring; the company's vice-president of operations, Robert Zingle, will become the new president and CEO.

Gandy Dancer general manager Grace Singleton says the restaurant will be "exactly the same" under the new owners, except for some small improvements. They're in the process of working out budgets for a "small face-lift," including a paint job and new carpeting for the restaurant.

The Gandy Dancer, 401 Depot, 769–0592. Mon.–Sat. 11:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. & 4:30–10 p.m. (Fri. & Sat. till 11 p.m.), Sun. brunch 10 a.m.–1:45 p.m., dinner 3:30–9 p.m.

—W.H.

Closings

B. B. King will be disappointed to learn that **Joe's Chick-N-Ribs** has closed. The bluesman was a customer soon after the little restaurant at State and Hill opened last year. **Mattress Plus** on Packard near Platt also is gone.

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Maple Drugs has closed in Maple Village. The first of what became a small local chain, Maple Drugs took its name from the west-side shopping center and stayed there long after many newer tenants had come and gone, leaving conspicuous vacancies all around. Owner Alvin Wander did not return a call asking what finally led to the departure.

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In Arborland, **Marianne's** women's wear and **Noble's** clothing have closed (Noble's still has a store in Ypsilanti). **Gregory's Furniture** has left the center to move back to Ypsilanti. **Midwest Piano Showrooms,** in the Village Center on Ann Arbor–Saline Road, also has closed.

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Splash, a clothing store for young men and women on South University, held a going-out-of-business sale during the Art Fair.

Follow-up

Five years ago this month, the Marketplace Changes column reported seventeen retail and restaurant openings. Five of those businesses have since closed: **Everything's $1.00,** at Briarwood; **Cajun Joe's,** a fast-food restaurant on Packard; **Mrs. Kay's,** a sister store to **Kay and Kay Tile,** on Washtenaw—the two went down together; and **Ben's** restaurant and **The Shops Above** at the Courtyard Shops on Plymouth Road.

The twelve survivors are **Mr. Bulky's** and **Williams-Sonoma,** at Briarwood; branches of the **Produce Station, Pastabilities,** and **Juliette's Cuisine** inside the Merchant of Vino on Plymouth Road; the **Hoffmann Studio** in Nickels Arcade; **Dimo's Deli & Donuts,** on West Stadium; a retail showroom for **Ann Arbor Therapy Oxygen,** which is now named **Mitchell Home Medical,** but is still located on Carpenter Road; **Tripper's** restaurant, on South State at Ellsworth; **Blake's Bridal and Fine Fashions,** on Carpenter at Ellsworth; the **Marco's Pizza** at 4068 Packard; and the **A-Squared Grill** inside the Campus Inn.

August 1992 survival rate: 71 percent

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One year ago this month, the Changes column reported seven openings. Since then, **Messina's Italian Deli,** which opened inside Miller's Market, has closed. In July, the market itself was closed, at least temporarily. Still open: the **Broken Egg** breakfast and lunch cafe, on the corner of Main and Miller; **Only the Best** used clothing on Jackson Road; **Eastern Accents** Chinese bakery and cafe, on South Fourth Avenue near Liberty; **General Nutrition Center** at Traver Village; **T J Maxx** at Carpenter Plaza; and **The Avenue,** a clothing store at Westgate Shopping Center. The opening of the **Creekside Tavern** on Jackson Road was prematurely announced that month, but the restaurant burned to the ground just before its scheduled opening. The owners are rebuilding.

August 1996 survival rate: 86 percent

—Lois Kane

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(4 P.M., complimentary admission)

25 Sat Marilyn Horne, mezzo-soprano

26 Sun Gabrieli Consort & Players

Los Muñequitos de Matanzas

November

7 Fri Celia Cruz with José Alberto "El Canario"

8 Sat Håken Hagegård, baritone

12 Wed Pat Metheny Group

14 Fri *Beethoven the Contemporary:*
Ursula Oppens, piano

15 Sat Tnuatron Dance Theater
(Family Performance at 7 P.M.)

16 Sun *Beethoven the Contemporary:*
American String Quartet (4 P.M.)

19 Wed Orpheus Chamber Orchestra
Richard Goode, piano

Celia Cruz

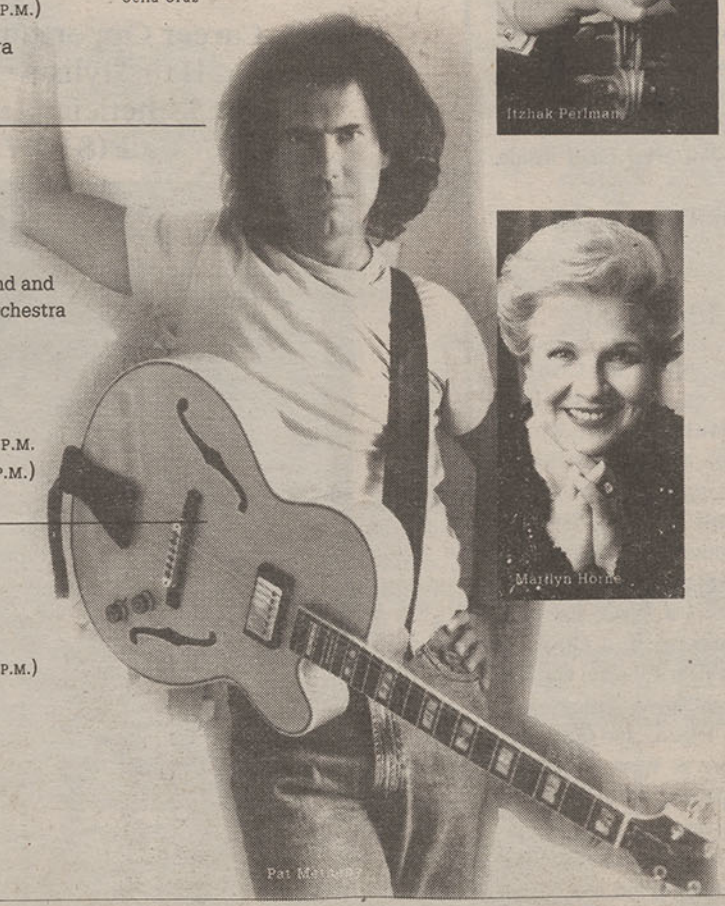
Itzhak Perlman

December

2 Tue Itzhak Perlman
In the Fiddler's House
A Klezmer Summit featuring
The Klezmatics
Brave Old World
The Klezmer Conservatory Band and
The Andy Statman Klezmer Orchestra

6-7 Sat-Sun Handel's *Messiah*
(Sun 12/7 at 2 P.M.)

11-14 Thu-Sun *The Harlem Nutcracker*
(Sat 12/13 & Sun 12/14 at 2 P.M.
[Family Performances] & 8 P.M.)



Pat Metheny

Marilyn Horne

January

9 Fri David Daniels, countertenor

10 Sat Israel Philharmonic
Zubin Mehta, conductor

11 Sun Christopher Parkening:
A Tribute to Andrés Segovia (4 P.M.)

18 Sun Boys Choir of Harlem (7 P.M.)

22 Thu Tokyo String Quartet

30 Fri *Beethoven the Contemporary:*
American String Quartet

31 Sat *Beethoven the Contemporary:*
Ursula Oppens, piano

February

5 Thu Dale Warland Singers

6 Fri The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra
Emanuel Ax, piano
Dale Warland Singers

8 Sun Canadian Brass (4 P.M.)

11 Wed Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam
Riccardo Chailly, conductor

13 Fri Juan-José Mosalini
and His Grand Tango Orchestra

14 Sat Chen Zimbalista, percussion

19 Thu Petersen Quartet

20 Fri Chick Corea, piano and Gary Burton, vibes

22 Sun Mendelssohn's *Elijah*
UMS Choral Union
Ann Arbor Symphony (4 P.M.)

Chick Corea

March

10 Tue Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano

12-14 Thu-Sat New York City Opera National Company:
Donizetti's *Daughter of the Regiment*

14 Sat New York City Opera National Company:
Donizetti's *Daughter of the Regiment*
(75-minute Family Performance at 2 P.M.)

15 Sun Michigan Chamber Players
(4 P.M., complimentary admission)

18 Wed Los Muñequitos de Matanzas

21-22 Sat-Sun Batsheva Dance Company of Israel
(Sun 3/22 at 4 P.M.)

24 Tue Russian National Orchestra
Mikhail Pletnev, conductor
Gil Shaham, violin

25 Wed Australian Chamber Orchestra
Steven Isserlis, cello

27 Fri *Beethoven the Contemporary:*
Ursula Oppens, piano

28 Sat Paco de Lucía and His Flamenco Orchestra

29 Sun *Beethoven the Contemporary:*
American String Quartet (4 P.M.)
World Première

Emanuel Ax

April

3-4 Fri-Sat Streb

7 Tue Susanne Mentzer, mezzo-soprano

13 Mon Evgeny Kissin, piano

23 Thu *Luz y Norte*/The Harp Consort

24 Fri Marsalis/Stravinsky
World Première

29 Wed Hagen Quartet

Evgeny Kissin

May

1 Fri The MET Orchestra
Sir Georg Solti, conductor
(8:30 P.M.)

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AUGUST EVENTS

We want to know about your event!

Who to write to:
Mail press releases to John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. (There is an after-hours drop box at the front door.) **NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE, but faxes are welcome or send E-mail to events@arborweb.com.** Fax numbers are: **769–3375 or 769–2147. The entire Observer events calendar for the month is available on arborweb: http://www.arborweb.com.**

What gets in?

With few exceptions, events must be within Ann Arbor. Always include the address and telephone of a contact person. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (usually the 2nd Friday of the preceding month) might not get in.

Cross listings: to save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

Next month's deadline:

All appropriate materials received by Monday, August 11, will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in.

FILM SOCIETIES on and off campus

Basic info:
Tickets $4 unless otherwise noted.

Abbreviations for film societies:
CH—Canterbury House 665–0606. **CCS**—U-M Center for Chinese Studies 764–6308. **CG**—Cinema Guild 994–0027. **CJS**—U-M Center for Japanese Studies 764–6307. **Chelsea**—Chelsea Film Society. $4.50 (children 12 & under and seniors 65 & over, $1.50). 475–4596, 475–2955. **FV**—Program in Film & Video Studies 764–0147. **GH**—German House 764–2152. **HILL**—Hill Street Cinema 769–0500. **IWW**—Industrial Workers of the World. **M-FLICKS**—University Activities Center 763–1107. **MTF**—Michigan Theater Foundation—$6.50 (children, students, & seniors, $5; MTF members, $4.50). 668–8480.

Abbreviations for locations:
AADL—Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. **AH-A**—Angell Hall Auditorium A. **Canterbury**—Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. **Chelsea**—Chelsea Depot, Jackson at Main St., Chelsea. **Chrysler**—Chrysler Center Auditorium, 2121 Bonisteel Blvd., North Campus. **EQ**—Room 126 East Quad, East University at Hill. **German House**—603 Oxford at Geddes Ave. **Hillel**—Green Auditorium, Hillel Foundation, 1429 Hill St. **IWW**—International Workers of the World headquarters, 103 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. **Lorch**—Lorch Hall (Old Architecture Building), Tappan at Monroe. **Mich.**—Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty. **MLB**—Modern Languages Building, E. Washington at Thayer. **Nat. Sci.**—Natural Science Building, 830 North University at Thayer.

★ *Denotes no admission charge.*

www.arborweb.com

1 FRIDAY

★Civil War Encampment: Waterloo Area Farm Museum. *August 1–3.* History comes to life at this pioneer homestead, where locals in Civil War–era costumes go about the business of civilian life, including caring for sick and wounded soldiers. Also, tours of the farmhouse museum (1–4 p.m.) and a special exhibit on **Victorian farm children,** with examples of their games, toys, crafts, chores, schooling, etc. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., Waterloo Area Farm Museum, 9998 Waterloo-Munith Rd., Waterloo Recreation Area, Jackson. (Take I-94 west to exit 153 and follow Clear Lake Rd. to Waterloo Village.) Free admission. House tours: $2.50 (adults), $2 (seniors), & 75¢ (children). 769–2219, (517) 596–2254.*

★"Insect Safari": Waterloo Natural History Association. Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Lisa Gamero leads a hike through the woods to look for and capture some insects. Wear clothes for crawling around in the bushes and bring a jar. *10 a.m., Portage Lake campground, Chelsea. (Take I-94 west to exit 150, follow Mt. Hope Rd. north to Seymour Rd., and go west on Seymour Rd. The entrance to Portage Lake is on the right.) Free. $4 vehicle entry fee, unless you already have a state motor vehicle permit ($20 per year). 475–3170.*

Jeff Cesario, Aug. 1 & 2.

A. Whitney Brown, Aug. 7–9.

CALENDAR

GALLERIES

51 EXHIBIT OPENINGS — *Jennifer Dix*

51 GALLERY REVIEW
"Just Corn" — *Jennifer Dix*

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

73 NIGHTSPOTS SCHEDULE — *John Hinchey*

73 NIGHTSPOTS REVIEW
The Buzzrats — *James M. Manheim*

AUGUST EVENTS

EVENTS REVIEWS

55 SPRING VALLEY EURYTHMY
Missing context — *Kate Conner-Ruben*

63 OFF THE MAP
Trouble in New Mexico — *Jennifer Dix*

67 THE GERMAN PARK PICNIC
Polka! — *Kate Conner-Ruben*

100 EVENTS AT A GLANCE

David Wilcox, Aug. 7.

Mahlathini and the Mahotella Queens, Aug. 1.

★"Arts of Ancient Ireland": ArtVentures Studio (Ann Arbor Art Center). *Daily (except Mondays).* Children and parents are invited to make art projects associated with traditional Ireland. *10 a.m.–9 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 10 a.m.–6 p.m. (Tues.–Thurs.), & noon–5 p.m. (Sun.), Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. Admission $4 per hour (for a maximum of 2 hours). Children under 5 must be accompanied by an adult. Adults assisting a child admitted free. Free admission the first Sunday of each month. On Grandparent's Day (second Tuesday each month), children with grandparents, $2 per hour. 994–8004, ext. 116.*

★"Performing Arts Potpourri": Herb David Guitar Studio "Liberty Plazures." *Every Monday through Friday.* Different local and visiting musicians and other performing artists to be announced. *Noon, Liberty Plaza, E. Liberty at S. Fifth Ave. Free. 665–8001.*

★Disarmament Group Meeting: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. *August 1 & 8.* Discussion on continuing disarmament issues in the post–Cold War era. *Noon, ICPJ office, Memorial Christian Church, 730 Tappan at Hill. Free. 663–1870.*

★Organ Concert Series: American Guild of Organists/St. Luke's Episcopal Church. *August 1, 8, & 15.* Final three in a series of four weekly half-hour concerts by local organists at this historic church. Today's performer: **Joy Schroeder.** *12:15 p.m., St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 120 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Free. 485–0411.*

★"It's Only Make Believe!": Junior Theater Strolling Players (Ann Arbor Public Schools Community Education and Recreation). *August 1 & 2 (different locations).* Nyima Woods directs a cast of area middle and high school students in her original play, the story of a no-nonsense little girl who gradually learns that there is value in fantasy and pretending. The show is especially geared to elementary school children, but may appeal to audiences of all ages. (Additional performances may be scheduled; call for updates). *1 p.m., Lawton Elementary School, 2250 S. Seventh St. Free. 994–2300, ext. 23.*

★"Just Corn": Ann Arbor Art Center. *See review, p. 51.* Opening reception for this exhibit of mixed-media sculptures by Valerie Mann and an installation by Shawn Skabelund. *6–8 p.m., Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. Free. 994–8004.*

★"TGIF Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Friday.* Moderate-paced 20-mile ride to the Dexter Dairy Queen for a snack. *6 p.m., Abbot School, 2670 Sequoia Pkwy. (off Maple one block south of Miller). Free. 996–9461 (today's ride), 913–9851 (general information).*

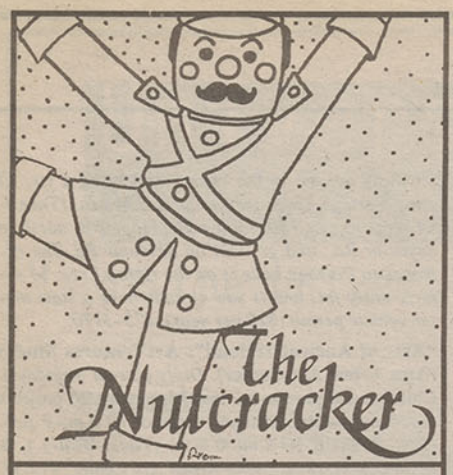
Lughnasad Ritual: Snakewillow and Friends. All invited to join in a contemporary ritual celebrating the peak of life energy and abundance. *6:45–10 p.m., location to be announced. $9–$15 donation. 663–5505.*

★"Family Camp-In": Ann Arbor District Library. A family-oriented evening of craft activities, storytelling by AADL librarians, and sing-alongs led by **Roots & Wings,** a local all-female children's music quartet. Refreshments. *7–8:30 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library West Branch, Westgate Shopping Center, 2505 Jackson Rd. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 994–1674.*

★"Hair: The Lines Between": Matrix Gallery. Opening reception for an exhibit containing etchings, drawings, and lithographs by Angela Taylor, who intends in this body of work to "evoke the simultaneity of tender and disgusting associations one has with private and public hair." *6–9 p.m., Matrix Gallery, 212 Miller Ave. Free. 663–7775.*

★"First Friday Festive Fun Night": Main Street Area Association/Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation Department. Ann Arbor's downtown area is filled tonight with strolling entertainers, and many stores are open late with special sales. *7–9 p.m., downtown area between Main and State streets. Free. 668–7112.*

★"Drum Circle": Herb David Guitar Studio "Liberty Plazures." *Every Friday.* All invited to bring their percussion instruments to join a drum circle led by Razor Reyes. *7–9 p.m., Liberty Plaza, E.*



Auditions for
Ann Arbor Ballet Theatre's
1997 Nutcracker Ballet

September 7, 1997

548 Church Street
(Corner of Church and S. University)
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Male and Female (Ages 9-11): 12:00-1:30pm

Male and Female (Ages 12-14): 1:45-3:30pm

Advanced Male and Female (Ages 15 and up): 3:45-6:00pm

Female dancers' attire:
black leotard, pink tights

Female dancers over age 12
must bring pointe shoes

Audition Fee: $15

For more information,
Call AABT at 313/668-1001

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Enjoy Love Songs from the Opera

Saturday, September 6, 1997 at 8 pm
Michigan Theater

Hear your favorite arias, duets, and ensembles sung by the best area singers, along with overtures by the orchestra and Maestro Samuel Wong

Tickets are $16, $23, $29. Call 994-4801
Stop by 527 E Liberty, Ste 208, M-F, 8-5 pm
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Tickets also available at Michigan Theater box office noon-8 pm day of concert

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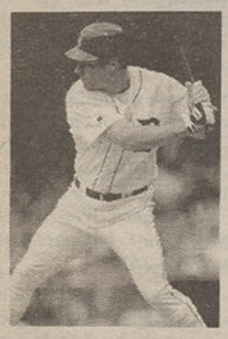
Symphony Orchestra
MUSIC IN THE KEY OF A²

See you at 'the Corner.'



On Deck in August

Aug 1	vs	Blue Jays	7:05	Spartan Stores Fireworks Spectacular[1]
Aug 2	vs	Blue Jays	7:05	MGD Concert Series in Tiger Plaza[2]
Aug 3	vs	Blue Jays	1:05	Free Sunoco Louisville Slugger Bat[3]
Aug 4	vs	Indians	7:05	Coca-Cola Kids Run the Bases[1]
Aug 5	vs	Indians	1:05	
Aug 15	vs	Royals	7:05	Spartan Stores Fireworks Spectacular[1]
Aug 16	vs	Royals	7:05	MGD Concert Series in Tiger Plaza[2]
Aug 17	vs	Royals	1:05	Free Budweiser Sports Equipment Bag[4]
Aug 19	vs	Twins	7:05	
Aug 20	vs	Twins	1:05	
Aug 29	vs	Phillies	7:05	Spartan Stores Fireworks Spectacular[1]
				$1 Days (Hot Dog, Pizza, Coke)
Aug 30	vs	Phillies	7:05	$1 Days (Hot Dog, Pizza, Coke)
				MGD Concert Series in Tiger Plaza[2]
Aug 31	vs	Phillies	1:05	$1 Days (Hot Dog, Pizza, Coke)

[1]*Postgame, weather permitting*
[2]*Pregame*
[3]*First 10,000 kids 14 and under*
[4]*First 10,000 adults*

Ticket Prices

Box	$15
Lower Reserved	$12
Outfield Box	$10
Upper Reserved	$8
Coca-Cola Fan Stands	$8*
Bleachers (Adults)	$4
Bleachers (Children)	$1

**Includes a Coke, choice of hot dog or pizza slice, and newspaper*

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For tickets call 248-25-TIGER
Groups of 20 or more call (313) 963-2050

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre's
1997-98 Season

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Sunday Matinees!

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- Lost in Yonkers - Sept. 18-21
- The Baltimore Waltz - Oct. 16-26
- A Little Night Music - Nov. 13-23
- A Holiday Farce - Dec. 18-21
- You Can't Take It With You - Jan. 22-Feb. 1, 1998
- A Cabaret Benefit - Feb. 13-14
- Big River - March 5-15
- Merchant of Venice - April 16-26
- Jesus Christ Superstar - May 14-17
- Dancing at Lughnasa - June 11-21

Subscriptions and single tickets are now available!

Call 971-2228 for more details or to order tickets.

Box Office Hours:
Mon.-Fri. 1-5 PM
2275 Platt Road

EVENTS *continued*

Liberty at S. Fifth Ave. Free. 665–8001.

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). *August 1 & 15.* All invited to join in simple dancing to chants and songs from various spiritual and religious traditions. Beginners welcome. *7–9 p.m., Ann Arbor Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. $5 requested donation. For information, call Majid at (517) 381–0126 or Siddiq and Majida at 996–1332.*

Annual Summer Show: Clearspace Theater Company. Rosemarie Hester directs a cast of area youngsters ranging in age from kindergarten through high school in 2 of her short original musicals, ***Outside the City Gate*** and ***The Violinist.*** Music and lyrics by composer Annie Rose. Also, ***Hercules Leaves His Mark,*** a musical by locals Ben Cohen and Paul Rardin. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor Civic Theater, 2275 Platt Rd. at Huron Pkwy. (south of Washtenaw). $9. 662–6135, 971–9227.*

Weekly Meeting: U-M Duplicate Bridge Club. *Every Friday.* All invited to play this tournament form of contract bridge in which identical hands are played by every table in order to compare individual scores. *7:30 p.m., Michigan Union Tap Room. $2 (students, $1). 996–1433.*

★"Summer Night Hike": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Hudson Mills naturalist Faye Stoner leads a walk at twilight to look for blooming evening primrose and flying bats, to listen for crickets and katydids, and observe other wonders of nature. Bug repellent recommended. *8 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. Free. (Park entry fee: $3 per vehicle.) Preregistration requested. 426–8211.*

★"An Evening of Sufi Chanting, Meditation, and Association": Haqqani Foundation. *Every Friday.* All invited to join a program of chanting and meditation based on the traditional Naqshbandi spiritual path as taught by Grandshaykh Muhammad Nazim al-Haqqani, a Sufi master who lives in Cyprus. *8–10 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 665–2670.*

"Drum Circle." *Every Friday.* All invited to come and play percussion instruments (hand percussion only; no snare drums or cymbals) and learn rhythms. *8–10 p.m., Gallup Park meeting room (next to the canoe livery), 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). $2 donation.*

First Friday Square and Contra Dance. Dancing to live music by Licketysplit, with local callers John Freeman and John Walker. All dances taught; beginners and older children welcome. No partner necessary. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $6 (children, $3) at the door. 665–8405.*

Mahlathini and the Mahotella Queens: The Ark. Described as "Howling Wolf Meets the Supremes" by a *Detroit News* critic, this theatrical, hyper-energetic ensemble from Soweto, South Africa, has always been a big favorite with Ann Arbor audiences. It features a 10-piece guitar-based Afro-pop band fronted by the counterpointed call-and-response vocals of Mahlathini, a deep-voiced male singer, and the Mahotella Queens, a female trio. The music they play is mbaqanga, an R&B-derived adaptation of traditional Zulu music popular in South African townships. Dressed in colorful Zulu finery, the singers leap and dance about the stage, sustaining nonstop playful interactions with each other, their band, and the audience, which always ends up dancing throughout most of the show. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Grease": Children's Creative Center. *August 1 & 2.* A cast of youngsters ages 6–12 presents this popular musical comedy about urban high school life in the 1950s, focusing on the romance between a "good girl" and her greaser boyfriend. The well-known score includes the songs "Greased Lightnin'," "Hand Jive," and more. *8 p.m., Children's Creative Center, 1600 Pauline. Tickets $7 (adults), $5 (children). Children under 2, free. For reservations, call 327–2017.*

"Anything Goes": Chelsea Area Players. *August 1 & 2.* Alisa Bauer directs this revival of Cole Porter's delightful Depression-era musical about romantic liaisons among the passengers on an ocean liner bound from New York to England. The score contains many of Porter's best-known and most lyrically erudite songs, including "I Get a Kick Out of You," "Blow, Gabriel, Blow," "You're the Top," and the title song. This production uses the book by Timothy Crouse and John Weidman written for the show's 1987 Broadway revival. *8 p.m., Chelsea High*

"Just Corn"

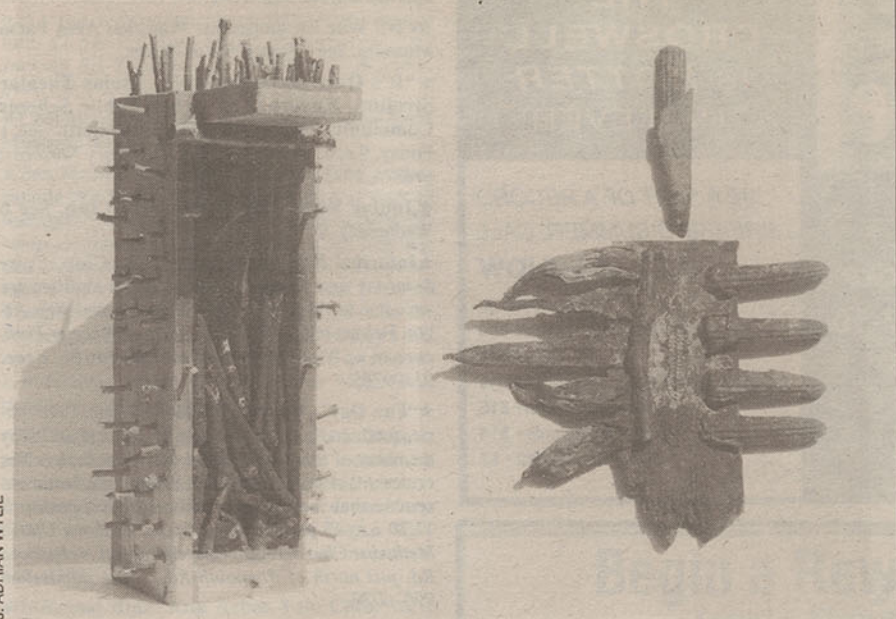
Small grain, big message

August is a good time to reflect on the harvest symbolized by that native American grain, corn. Two area artists, Shawn Skabelund and Valerie Mann, have long incorporated corn materials and emblems of rural life in their works; "Just Corn," an exhibit this month at the Ann Arbor Art Center, showcases their art side by side.

Skabelund, a native of Utah who currently lives in Ann Arbor, is known nationally for his austere, often moving installations exploring man's impact upon the environment. "Mentoring Session," his piece for this exhibit, centers around a livestock watering tank that has been filled to the brim with shelled corn and fenced around with wooden slats. Two ladders lean against opposite sides of the circular structure; chairs, affixed to the top of each ladder, perch atop the makeshift corncrib on either side. Animal bones are scattered beneath the ladders, whose rungs are inscribed with quotes by persons from Sitting Bull to Wendell Berry, reflecting on the destruction of nature. Skabelund's point is that America has a history of displacing and depleting its resources—from native peoples to entire ecosystems. Whether it's white settlers pushing Native Americans off the land, or big government driving small farmers out of business, Skabelund says, it's all an example of "bad mentoring" by paternalistic authorities.

Valerie Mann's striking mixed-media sculptures reflect her upbringing on an Indiana farm, as well as her interest in the seasons and the cycles of life and death, harvest and regeneration. Family relationships are also reflected and are informed with passion, energy, and humor. A bronze casting of two ears of corn is titled "Are You Listening?" Then there's the "(Sometimes I Think I'm Going) Crazy Quilt," a vivid geometric collage of red-and-black cornhusks arranged on wooden squares like a three-dimensional quilt. "Postpartum Calendar," a nearly eight-foot-long wall sculpture, was created in 1995 shortly after the birth of Mann's son, when she was trying to meet an exhibit deadline while exhausted and sleep-deprived. The work's twelve sections represent the twelve-day deadline she gave herself to finish the piece. They grow larger, wilder, and woollier as they progress: a shock of dyed-red cornhusks fans out like a tribal headdress on one segment, and near the end, a full ear of corn is seen pushing its way out of a rubber casing. When the work was first shown, Mann recalls, "One woman looked at that and burst out laughing. She said, 'That *is* childbirth!' And when a man asked, 'Is that really what it's like?' I said, 'It's worse.' "

Skabelund and Mann will meet the public at the exhibit's opening reception, Friday, August 1. —*Jennifer Dix*



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

"Burn Pile" and "One LittleThing," two mixed-media sculptures by artist Valerie Mann.

New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor Art Center. *Just Corn: Shawn Skabelund and Valerie Mann* (July 31–August 31). See 1 Friday and review, above. 994–8004.

Ann Arbor District Library. *Craig Paxton: Black and White Photography* (August 1–31). *Granetta Brooks: Abstract Paintings* (August 1–31). 327–4510.

Gifts of Art. *Paintings by Barbara Roberts, 11th Annual Employee Art Exhibition, Pastels and Dolls by Carlye Crisler, Fluorescent Photographs by Brian Wu, Motawi Tileworks Exhibit,* and *Mixed Media by Jack Olds* (July 28–September 25). 936–ARTS.

Matrix Gallery. *Hair: The Lines Between* (August 1–31). See 1 Friday. 663–7775.

Clare Spitler Works of Art. *A Challenge: Annual Summer Salon Exhibit* (August 5–26). See 5 Tuesday. 662–8914.

U-M Pierpont Commons. *Vanishing Farm Architecture: Photos by Carol Guregian* (July 28–August 22). *Mixed Media by Yoshiko Ohara and Naoki Umeda* (July 20–August 6). *Fiber Art by Kate Pocrass* (August 30–September 30). 764–7544.

For a complete listing of local galleries, see the 1997–1998 Ann Arbor Observer City Guide or www.arborweb.com.

School Auditorium, 500 E. Washington St., Chelsea. Tickets $8 (July 31 performance, $6), available in advance at Chelsea Pharmacy, or at the door. For reservations, call 475–0792.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream": U-M Basement Arts. *August 1–3.* This talented U-M student troupe presents a modernized adaptation of Shakespeare's delightful comic fantasia. *8 p.m., Performance Network, 408 W. Washington. Tickets $12 (students & seniors, $9; Thursdays, whatever you can afford to pay) in advance by reservation and at the door. For reservations, call 663–0681; to charge by phone, call 663–0696.*

"Off the Map": Purple Rose Theater Company. *Wednesdays through Sundays through August 23. See review, p. 63.* Terry Heck directs Joan Ackermann's bittersweet comedy about an unconventional family living the simple life in the hills of New Mexico, and what happens when an IRS agent shows up on their doorstep. Cast includes Kate Peckham, John Hawkinson, John Lepard, Janet Maylie, and Jim Porterfield. Suzi Regan is the narrator (Sandra Birch takes over the role August 13–23). Purple Rose fans, take note: tickets for the fall revival of Jeff Daniels's wildly popular comedy **"Escanaba in Da Moonlight"** go on sale August 4 and are expected to sell out fast. *8 p.m., Garage Theater, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets $15 (Wed., Thurs., & Sun.) and $20 (Fri. & Sat.) in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 475–7902.*

"Stomp": Aiken Management. *August 1–3.* National touring production of Luke Cresswell and Steve McNicholas's nonstop 90-minute percussion extravaganza. The 8-member troupe uses everything from 50-gallon drums and stiff-bristle brooms to hub caps, tea chests, plastic bags, and boots to create a resounding kaleidoscope of polyrhythms that they perform in what one reviewer calls "intricately choreographed chaos." *Stomp* won Obie and Drama Desk awards for "Most Unique Theater Experience." *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $29 & $34 (children 12 & under, $24 & $29) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.*

Jeff Cesario: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. *August 1 & 2.* Ann Arbor debut of this quick-witted, scathing topical humorist who has won a handful of Emmy and Cable Ace awards both for his own HBO specials and for his work as a writer on HBO's "Larry Sanders Show" and as a writer and producer of HBO's "Dennis Miller Live" series. Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $9 (Thursday) & $12 (Friday & Saturday) in advance and at the door. Group rates and other discounts available. 996–9080.*

Friday Dance Jam: People Dancing Studio. *August 1 & 15.* Dancing to an eclectic mix of taped music, including worldbeat, funk, rap, R&B, soul, alternative rock 'n' roll, new folk, and pop. Also, occasional live drumming. An alternative to the bar scene for people who love to dance. All are invited to bring cassette tapes and acoustic musical instruments. Smoke-free, no alcohol. Dance barefoot or bring dancing shoes. Come with or without a dance partner; children welcome. *10 p.m., People Dancing Studio, 111 Third St. (west entrance between Huron and Washington). $4. Wheelchair-accessible. 459–8136, 996–2405.*

P. W. Long's Reelfoot: Prism Productions. Bump-and-grind postpunk rock 'n' roll—rude, lusty, and passionately inebriated—by this new band led by former Wig and Mule singer-guitarist P. W. Long and featuring the celebrated former Jesus Lizard drummer Mac McNeilly. *10:30 p.m. (doors open at 9 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets $6 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets; $8 at the door. To charge by phone, call (810) 645–6666; for information, call 996–8555.*

FILMS

No films.

2 SATURDAY

★**"Sunrise Saturday Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Saturday.* Very slow-paced 22-mile ride to Dexter for breakfast. *Sunrise (consult the* Ann Arbor News *the Friday before each ride), Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 665–6327, 913–9851.*

★**"Dexter Breakfast Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Saturday.* Slow-paced (22-mile) and moderate/fast-paced (29–70 mile) round-trip rides to the Dexter Bakery. A very popular ride. Also, after the bakery stop, a fast/moderate-paced **Swim Extension Ride,** 40 to 60 miles, continues to Silver Lake for a swim. *Note:* Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, change for a phone call, and snacks. *8 a.m., Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. For information about weekly breakfast rides, call 741–4991 (August 2 ride), 994–3001 (August 9), 665–3810 (August 16), 994–5908 (August 23), & 663–4498 (August 30). For information about the Swim Extension Ride, call 971–1065. For general*

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EVENTS *continued*

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★**Civil War Encampment: Waterloo Area Farm Museum.** See 1 Friday. 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

★**"It's Only Make Believe!": Junior Theater Strolling Players (Ann Arbor Public Schools Community Education and Recreation).** See 1 Friday. *9 a.m., Ann Arbor District Library Northeast Branch, 2713 Plymouth Rd.*

★**Junior Ride: Ann Arbor Velo Club.** See 6 Wednesday. 9 a.m.

★**Informal Ride: Ann Arbor Velo Club.** *Every Saturday and Sunday.* Cyclists of all abilities are welcome to ride along roads in and around Ann Arbor. Helmet required. *10 a.m. Meet at Wheeler Park, corner of N. Fourth Ave. and Depot St. Free. 913–9783.*

★**"Fun Day": Northeast Senior Center.** Live music, food, and a show and sale of arts and crafts by members of this lively senior activities center. The center's **Get It All Together Band,** an eclectic ensemble that includes a washboard bass, performs 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Dixboro United Methodist Church, 5221 Church Rd. (off N. Dixboro Rd. just north of Plymouth Rd.). Free admission. 996–0070.*

★**"Arb Walk": Cyberspace Communications.** *Every Saturday.* All invited to join members of this local computer-conferencing group for a walk from Gallup Park through the U-M Arboretum. *10 a.m. Meet in Gallup Park parking lot, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 930–6564.*

"Family Canoeing": Ann Arbor Parks Department. Leslie Science Center staff lead a canoe exploration of the Huron River. *10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Argo Park canoe livery, 1055 Longshore Dr. $8 (families, $25) includes canoe rental, life jackets, and basic instruction. 662–7802.*

"Through the Looking Glass": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. *Every Saturday & Sunday.* Audiovisual exploration of the stars and planets currently visible in the sky, with an emphasis on what can be seen through a small telescope. *10:30 & 11:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. (Saturdays only) and 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m. (both days), U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes Ave. $3 (seniors & children 12 & under, $2). 764–0478.*

Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic: Domino's Petting Farm. This accomplished youth string ensemble from Saline performs occasionally throughout the day while visitors enjoy meeting farm animals and the other activities at the petting farm. *10:30 a.m.–4 p.m., Domino's Farms, 30 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Admission $2.50 (children 2 & under, free). 930–5032.*

★**20th Annual Dixboro Fair: Dixboro United Methodist Church.** A community fair and ice cream social, with door prizes, carnival games (including a moonwalk), silent auction of various goods and services, tours of the historic Dixboro church, and lots of goodies to eat. Entertainment includes the bluegrass band, The Oakland Ramblers (2:30–5 p.m.), the Opey-Dopey Clowns (3:30 p.m.), and a Beanie Baby Walk to win those coveted toys (11 a.m., 1:30, & 4 p.m.). Also, the annual **"Artisans on the Green,"** a juried arts and crafts show of more than 60 award-winning Michigan artisans, offering paintings, jewelry, woodworking, dolls and doll clothing, and much more. *11 a.m.–6 p.m., Dixboro Village Green, Plymouth Rd. at Cherry Hill Rd. (2 miles east of US-23). Free admission. 665–5632, 761–5068.*

Draw Doubles: Ann Arbor Area Disc Induced Sports Club. *Every Saturday.* All invited to play disc golf at Hudson Mills Metropark's 18-hole disc golf course. Beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Golf discs available free from the Hudson Mills Metropark office. *11 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $4 per player; free for spectators. (Park entry fee: $3 per vehicle.) 996–0212, 434–1615.*

★**"Children's Storytime": Little Professor Book Company.** *Every Saturday.* Storytellers Charles Lewis and Mary Gliedt alternate weekly in presenting tales, crafts, and other activities for kids ages 4–10. This month, Lewis's **"Follow the Alphabet"** (August 2, 16, & 30). Gliedt tells stories to be announced (August 9 & 23). Also, a visit from **The Stinky Cheese Man** at noon on August 9. *11 a.m.–noon, Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–4110.*

★**"Children's Hour": Borders Books and Music.** *Every Saturday.* Borders staff and guests read stories and lead activities for kids ages 4–10. Today's theme: **"Africa."** Also this month: stories about the **"Dog Days of Summer"** (August 9), a visit from **Curious George** (August 16), stories about **"School"** (August 23), and stories and songs by **Lois Miller** (August 30). *11 a.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

"Introduction to the World Wide Web": Ann Arbor District Library. *August 2 & 27.* A hands-on introduction to Web basics, including how to use browsing software and other Internet features. *Note:* The library offers several free introductory Web demonstrations this month (see 6 Wednesday listing), along with programs on specialized on-line topics on August 8, 15, 16, 22, 26, & 27 (see listings). *11 a.m. (August 2) & 7:30 p.m. (August 27), Ann Arbor District Library training center (3rd floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. $5. Preregistration required. 327–4550.*

Monthly Meeting: Gays and Lesbians, Older and Wiser. Potluck and social gathering for gays and lesbians age 50 and older. Bring a dish to pass. *11 a.m.–1 p.m., U-M Turner Geriatric Clinic, 1010 Wall St. $2. 764–2556.*

★**"Get Your Feet Wet!: Stream Exploration": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs.** Hudson Mills naturalist Faye Stoner leads a wading outing to view stream life (bring nets if you have them), have a scavenger hunt, a water race, and more. Wear old shoes and clothes and be prepared to get wet. *1 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Rapids View picnic area, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. Free. (Park entry fee: $3 per vehicle.) Preregistration requested. 426–8211.*

★**"The Hot August Hike": Waterloo Natural History Association.** Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Lisa Gamero leads a 3.2-mile hike along a portion of the Waterloo-Pinckney Hiking Trail that runs from Portage Lake to Willis Road. *2 p.m., meet in the Willis Rd. parking area to carpool to the starting point. (Take I-94 west to exit 150, follow Mt. Hope Rd. north to Seymour Rd., and go west on Seymour Rd. to Willis Rd. The parking area is on Willis just south of Seymour.) Free. $4 vehicle entry fee, unless you already have a state motor vehicle permit ($20 per year). 475–3170.*

Family Chess Club: Adventures in Chess. *Every Saturday.* Chess players of all ages and levels of ability invited. Includes a weekly ladder tournament. Chess sets provided. *5–10 p.m., Adventures in Chess, 220 S. Main (new location below Elmo's Supershirts). $3 per week, or $49 annual membership. 665–0612.*

"Stomp": Aiken Management. See 1 Friday. 5 & 9 p.m.

Duplicate Bridge: Burns Park Senior Center. *Every Saturday.* All invited to play this tournament form of contract bridge in which identical hands are played by every table in order to compare individual scores. *7–10 p.m., Burns Park Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $3 per pair. 668–2430, 975–9033.*

★**Ballroom Dancing: Herb David Guitar Studio "Liberty Plazures."** *Every Saturday.* Dancing to vintage swing by the popular **II-V-I Orchestra.** *7–9 p.m., Liberty Plaza, E. Liberty at S. Fifth Ave. Free. 665–8001.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Smocking Group.** Informal "sit 'n' stitch" gathering for those interested in smocking, the English art of embroidering by gathering cloth in regularly spaced round tucks, and heirloom sewing. All invited. *7:30 p.m., location to be announced. Free. 663–7867.*

First Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. All dancers and nondancers welcome to join this friendly, aerobic social activity. Marlin Whittaker of Toledo calls to live music by Lansing's Scarlet Runner String Band. No partner needed. Wear comfortable clothes and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $6. 769–1052, 913–2076.*

" 'S Wonderful Music Part 2": Kerrytown Concert House. Second of two summer concerts celebrating the music of George Gershwin. Tonight's program features works for piano and voice. Performers are pianists **Louis Nagel,** an internationally renowned performer and U-M music professor; Grand Rapids native **Rich Ridenour,** an accomplished jazz and pop performer; and **Jean Schneider,** the accompanist for the UMS Choral Union. Also, local soprano **Kimberly Haynes** and local bass-baritone **Richard Taylor.** Program includes arias and duets from "Porgy and Bess," a 2-piano arrangement of "Rhapsody in Blue," 3 piano preludes, and selected short pieces and transcriptions for piano, including the classic rag "Rialto Ripples." *8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $8–$25. Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

Guy Clark: The Ark. Clark is a veteran singer-songwriter from Texas whose songs have been recorded by everyone from Linda Ronstadt ("Des-

Hair—whether attractive or repulsive, sexy or disgusting—is the subject of an installation by Angela Taylor opening Fri., Aug. 1, at Matrix Gallery and running through the end of the month.

peradoes Waiting for a Train") to Jerry Jeff Walker ("L.A. Freeway") to Johnny Cash ("Heavy Metal"). He specializes in rough-edged, vividly detailed romantic ballads that have provoked comparisons to fiction writers like Larry McMurtry and Ambrose Bierce. Opening acts are the **Dixie Chicks,** a Dallas-based female trio whose music blends Texas swing, bluegrass instrumentation, and frisky vocal harmonies, and Austin singer-songwriter **Danny Britt,** also a famous golf instructor. Clark is in town to host his annual "Guy Clark Great Southern Scramble" fund-raiser for the Ark and the Washtenaw Association for Community Advocacy (see 4 Monday listing). *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Off the Map": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Grease": Children's Creative Center. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Anything Goes": Chelsea Area Players. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream": U-M Basement Arts. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Jeff Cesario: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 1 Friday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

★**Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers.** *August 2, 9, & 30.* A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through instruments at the Peach Mountain Observatory. The observatory's huge, 24-inch McMath telescope is operational, but participants are nevertheless encouraged to bring their own telescopes. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, cellular phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Program canceled if sky is overcast at sunset. *Sunset–12:30 p.m. (as long as the sky remains clear), Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about 1 1/4 miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark). Free. 480–4514.*

FILMS

No films.

3 SUNDAY

Summer Training Series: Velo Club. Low-cost, low-key bike races designed to give beginning cyclists experience racing in a structured atmosphere and experienced cyclists a start on the race season. Includes races for intermediate and advanced United States Cycling Federation (USCF) licensed racers, a "citizens' race" open to all riders, and a free race open to young racers ages 10–16. Velo Club coaches are on hand to offer assistance. Prize money to top finishers. *9 a.m. (citizens' race), 10 a.m. (intermediate USCF), 11 a.m. (advanced USCF), & noon (youth), Runway Plaza, off S. State near the Ann Arbor Airport. Fee: $10 (Velo Club members, $5) per race, plus $2 insurance. To register, pick up a form in downtown bike shops or call 761–1603.*

★**"Wampler's Lake Swim Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Fast/moderate-paced 80-mile ride to Wampler's Lake for a swim and lunch. Also, a slow-paced 40-mile ride to the same destination leaves at 9 a.m. from the Dairy Queen in Manchester. *9 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 449–2117 (80-mile ride), (810) 455–6581 (40-mile ride), 913–9851 (general information).*

★**"Sunday Bank Run": Ann Arbor Track Club.** *Every Sunday.* All invited to join AATC members for all or part of a 14-mile training run along roads ringing the city. *9 a.m., Great Lakes Bancorp parking lot, 2400 S. Huron Pkwy. at Platt Rd. Free. For information, call Dan Gamble at 995–5505.*

12th Annual Exotic Bird Exhibition: Ann Arbor Cage Bird Club. Display of live exotic birds from around the world, with sales of birds and bird-related items. Veterinarians and other experts are on hand to answer questions. Also, Donna Hefton, inventor of Showerbird (a bathing system for cage birds), discusses **"The Importance of Bathing Your Bird"** (10 a.m.) and **"Sex and the Single Parrot"** (12:30 p.m.) and answers questions about bathing cage birds (2 p.m.). *9 a.m.–5 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. Admission $3 (children 12 & under, free). (313) 928–4270, (313) 454–0716.*

★**Civil War Encampment: Waterloo Area Farm Museum.** See 1 Friday. 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

★**Zen Meditation: Buddhist Society for Compassionate Wisdom.** *Every Sunday.* Meditators from all traditions are welcome to join in meditation to develop awareness and concentration. In the morning, two 25-minute meditation periods with a break between, followed by a short talk by Zen Buddhist Temple resident priest Sukha Murray. In the evening, meditation and chanting, followed by a talk and a question period. *9:30–11 a.m. & 5–6:30 p.m., Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard at Wells. Free; donations accepted. 761–6520.*

"Wetlands by Canoe": Ann Arbor Parks Department. Naturalist Carol Clements leads a canoe trip to explore the wetlands along the Huron River. Refreshments. *10 a.m.–noon, Gallup Park canoe livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). $7.50 ($12 per couple). Preregistration required. 662–9319.*

★**Informal Ride: Ann Arbor Velo Club.** See 2 Saturday. 10 a.m.

★**First Singles: First Presbyterian Church.** *Every Sunday except August 24.* A weekly program for single adults interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. Today: *Ann Arbor News* writer Don Faber talks about interesting people he has interviewed. Also this month: Local mystery writer Jerry Prescott, author of the recently published *Deadly Sweet in Ann Arbor,* discusses "An Author's Dream Come True" (August 10), Samaritan Counseling Center counselor Robin Songér discusses "Pain Is Inevitable; Suffering Is Optional" (August 17), and First Presbyterian Church senior minister Michael Lindvall discusses his personal faith journey (August 31). Also, members meet for breakfast every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at Cafe Marie (1759 Plymouth Rd.) and every Wednesday at 7 p.m. for volleyball on a sand court on the church grounds. All singles invited. *10:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 741–8345.*

★**Chinese Meditation: Ann Arbor Chapter of the International Yan Xin Qigong Association.** *Every Sunday.* All invited to discuss and practice this Chinese form of meditation. *10:30 a.m.–noon, 1014 Herbert Dow Bldg., 2300 Hayward, North Campus. Free. 764–2182.*

★**Sunday Discussion: Knox Singles Ministries.** *Every Sunday.* All single adults invited to join a discussion of contemporary Christian topics to be announced. *11 a.m., Tappan Middle School, 2251 E. Stadium. Free. 971–KNOX.*

Ann Arbor Artisan Market. *Every Sunday.* A wide variety of fine arts and crafts by local artisans. Musicians, storytellers, or other entertainers are usually on hand to add to the festivities. Today: Jacquelyn Sullivan demonstrates **paper marbling** (noon–3 p.m.). *11 a.m.–4 p.m., Ann Arbor Farmers' Market (Kerrytown). Free admission. 668–2027.*

Monthly Meeting: YANKS. All invited to join this group for brunch and socializing. The acronym stands for Young Anglicans: No Kids, and the group consists mostly of couples in their 20s and 30s, but there is no age requirement, and young parents who desire an afternoon of adult company are also welcome. Visitors are also welcome to meet for worship before brunch (10:15 a.m., St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard). *Noon, location to be announced. Pay for your own meal. For information or reservations, call Colleen at 930–9006 or the church at 662–2449.*

★**"First Sunday Hot Sauce Tasting": Tios Restaurant.** Tios manager Tim Seaver offers samples of the hundreds of hot sauces and salsas available at this popular Mexican diner. Work your way through 100 sauces and you'll get a free T-shirt. *Noon–4 p.m., Tios Restaurant, 333 E. Huron. Free. 761–6650.*

★**"Battle of the Bands": Herb David Guitar Studio "Liberty Plazures."** *Every Sunday.* Local bands and solo musicians compete in different categories each week. *Noon–3 p.m., Liberty Plaza, E. Liberty at S. Fifth Ave. Free. 665–8001.*

★**Senior Sunday Fun Bunch: Ann Arbor Public Schools Senior Adult Program.** *Every Sunday.* All seniors age 55 and older invited for an afternoon of socializing. Activities include a potluck (1–1:30 p.m.) and bridge and euchre (1:30–3:30 p.m.). Participants are welcome to bring their own games. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Newcomers welcome. *12:30–3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor*

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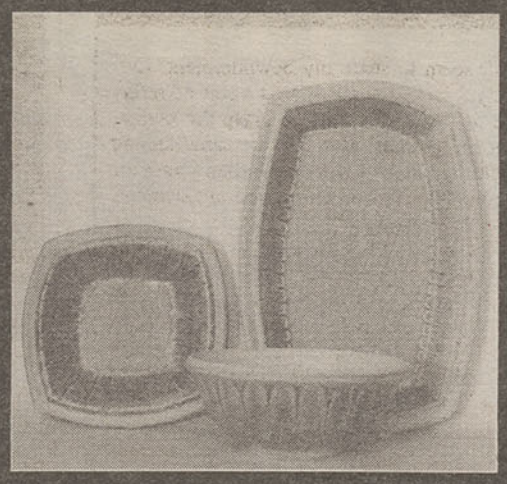

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Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.

★**Introductory Session: Maharishi Vedic University.** *Every Sunday & Wednesday.* Introduction to a simple, natural meditation technique for creativity, happiness, and fulfillment. *1 p.m. (Sundays) & 7 p.m. (Wednesdays), Maharishi Vedic School (formerly known as the TM Center), 205 N. First St. at Ann. Free. 996–8686.*

★**Informational Meeting: Ann Arbor Co-Housing Group.** *August 3 & 23.* Learn about this local nonprofit group's cooperatively designed neighborhood, consisting of affordable private homes with some shared facilities, which emphasizes connection among residents and environmental responsibility. *1–3 p.m., Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 930–6425.*

★**Biweekly Meeting: International Workers of the World.** *August 3 & 17.* All invited to learn about the activities of this radical, uncompromising labor union better known as the Wobblies. *1 p.m., IWW General Headquarters, 103 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. Free. 483–3548.*

★**"Kiki's Walk for Fitness & Health": Herb David Guitar Studio.** *Every Sunday.* All seniors age 50 & older are invited to join Kiki David, a 93-year-old runner (and Herb David's mother), for an hour-long walk in Gallup Park, weather permitting. *1 p.m., Gallup Park canoe livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. For information, call Herb David at 665–8001 (10 a.m.–6 p.m., except Sundays).*

"Celery Stalks at Midnight: Cobblestone Farm Domestic Life Program": Ann Arbor Parks Department. Demonstration of 19th-century gardening techniques and tours of a re-creation of a 19th-century kitchen garden. Also, information about how to get heirloom seeds and vintage gardening tools. *1–5 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). $1.50 (seniors age 60 & over and youths ages 3–17, $1; children under 3, free). 994–2928.*

★**"Upstairs at Borders": Borders Books and Music.** *Every Sunday (except August 31).* Weekly musical series featuring area performers. Today: Baroque music for recorder and harpsichord by **Duo Dolcembalo.** Also this month: singer-songwriter **David Menefee** (August 10), Andean music by **Sur** (August 17), and jazz by the **Carl Michel Trio** (August 24). *1 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**"Feed the Poets": Del Rio.** Open mike poetry readings interspersed with informal readings by **Joe Matuzak, Renoir Gaither,** and **Steve Marsh.** *1:30–4:30 p.m., Del Rio, 122 W. Washington. Free. 761–2530.*

★**Garden Tours: Jai's Landscape Design & Nursery.** Master gardener Jai McFall conducts a tour of the extensive gardens spread over nearly two acres at her home in Milan. Includes wildflower and herb gardens, three water gardens, a ginkgo tree, fragrant viburnums, creeping phlox, rock cress, and lots more. The tour begins around 2:15 p.m., but visitors are welcome to come out anytime between 2 and 6 p.m. and explore the gardens on their own. *2–6 p.m., 304 Judd Rd. at Platt Rd., Milan. Free. 439–2517.*

★**"Kerry Tales: Cat Tales with Mother Goose": Story Time at Kerrytown (Kerrytown Shops/ Workbench Furniture).** This 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and rollicking fun features local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. *2 p.m., Kerrytown courtyard. Free. 769–3115.*

"Off the Map": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream": U-M Basement Arts. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Stomp": Aiken Management. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

★**Ann Arbor–Motown Hash House Harriers.** *Every Sunday.* The local chapter of an unorthodox international running club for people who like to make a game of running. Each runner's primary task is to follow a trail, laid out by a club member, that has been designed to trick runners into losing their way. The usual result is to make the fastest (lead) runners run the longest distance, so that runners of varying abilities complete the course in nearly the same time. Each run includes at least one pit stop (with beer and soft drinks, hidden along the way) and is followed by a trip to a nearby restaurant for refreshments. *3 p.m., location to be announced. Free. For location and information, call 332–9314.*

★**Zwerdling Fur Sign Dedication: Kempf House Center for Local History.** *See Then & Now, p. 23.* Reception and a dedication ceremony for this newly restored bit of history, the colorful 1915 Zwerdling Fur sign on the alley wall at 213 E. Liberty. Following the ceremony, all invited to walk to the site for a ribbon-cutting and to view the restored sign. *4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free. 994–4898.*

★**"Concerts in the Park Featuring Dinner": Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce.** *August 3 & 17.* Tonight's show features comedy with life-size puppets from **Hip Squeak Puppet Productions** of Toledo (5:30–6 p.m.) and Brazilian jazz by the Livonia-based husband-and-wife duo of vocalist **Heidi Hepler** and guitarist, mandolinist, and violinist **Miche'le Ramo** (6–7:30 p.m.). Also, **Colors the Clown** performs magic tricks and brings along her traveling petting zoo (5:30–7:30 p.m.). Food for sale from Chelsea Cottage Inn Pizza and other vendors beginning at 4:30 p.m. *5:30–8:30 p.m., Pierce Park, M-52 (just north of Old US-12), Chelsea. Free. 475–1145.*

★**Morris Dancing: Ann Arbor Morris & Sword Dancers.** *Every Sunday.* All invited to learn this traditional form of English ceremonial dance dating back to medieval times. No experience necessary. Wear comfortable soft-soled shoes. *6–8 p.m., location to be announced. Free. For information, call Jill at 677–1498.*

II-V-I Orchestra: Heidelberg Restaurant. *Every Sunday.* Dancing to late-30s swing and 40s R&B by this veteran local big band led by Urbations saxophonist David Swain. *7–9:30 p.m., Heidelberg Restaurant (3rd floor), 215 N. Main. $3. 663–7758.*

★**"Michigan Amigos de Guatemala": Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.** U.P. resident Sue Ellen Kingsley shows slides and discusses her experiences living in a village of refugees recently returned to their native Guatemala as part of the Michigan Guatemala Accompaniment Project. Also, discussion on founding a similar group from the Ann Arbor area. Potluck at 6:30 p.m. *7:30–9 p.m., St. Mary's Student Parish, 331 Thompson. Free. 663–3338.*

Summer Term Dance Party: U-M Ballroom Dance Club. Ballroom dancing to recorded music played by DJ Dorian Deaver of Dazz Dance Productions. All couples and singles invited. *7:30–11 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. $10 (members, $5). 763–6984.*

★**Digital Music Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Barton Polot directs a synthesizer ensemble in an outdoor concert on the plaza in front of the U-M Media Union. (In case of rain, held indoors in the gallery.) *8 p.m., U-M Media Union plaza, Murfin at Duffield, North Campus (in front of the Lurie Bell Tower). Free. 763–4726.*

Dean Solden and Evan Katz: Kerrytown Concert House. Pianists Solden and Katz, who are father and son, join for an evening of duo-piano jazz, from standards to originals spanning the jazz continuum, from haunting ballads to bop to fusion. Solden, a longtime performing and recording artist in California, has performed with singer Maria Muldaur and many other well-known artists. He began teaching jazz piano to Katz when the latter was 6 years old, and the two first performed together when Katz was 9, opening for bassist Stanley Clark at the Mount Tamalpais Jazz Festival. The family moved to Ann Arbor in 1993, where Katz became a member of the award-winning Community High Jazz Band. He is currently studying at the prestigious Berklee School of Music in Boston. *8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10 in advance, $12 at the door. For reservations, call 769–2999.*

FILMS

No films.

4 MONDAY

★**"Back Road Ramble": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Monday.* Slow-paced ride, 20–35 miles, along back roads (including some dirt roads) to the Dexter Dairy Queen or to Independence Lake. *8:30 a.m., 960 Forest Rd. (off Country Club Rd.), Barton Hills. Free. 761–2885 (today's ride), 994–0044 (general information).*

★**Monday Club: Ann Arbor Salvation Army.** *Every Monday.* Drop-in social group for seniors age 55 and older. Every meeting includes a special program, speaker, word game, or craft activity. Today: open discussion of **"When I Moved to Ann Arbor."** Also this month: Strolling violinist **Michael Korman** plays requests (August 11), an open discussion of **"My Favorite Memories"** (August 18), and a talk by Tamara Meerovich on **"The Great Museums of Russia"** (August 25). The weekly program also includes Bible study and chair exercises. Coffee, tea, juice, and doughnuts served. Followed by lunch and socializing. *10:30 a.m.–noon, Salvation Army, 100 Arbana. Free ($1 donation for lunch). 668–8353.*

★**Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Monday.* Activities begin at 10 a.m. with

Spring Valley Eurythmy

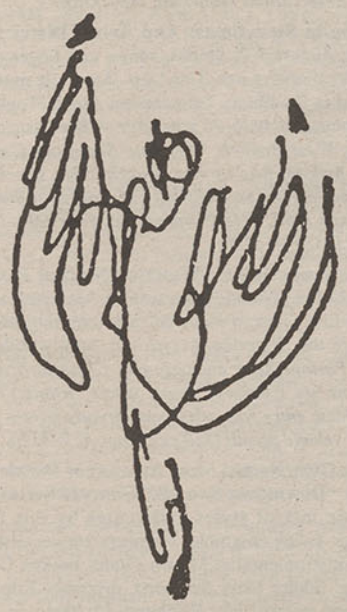
Missing context

In 1912, someone asked Austrian-born philosopher Rudolf Steiner an interesting question: "Was it possible to find new sources from which an art of movement could be developed?" At the time, the field of dance was at a crossroads that would eventually lead to the myriad forms of contemporary dance. Steiner's response started things off in yet another direction: the goal, he said, was to create movement that rendered speech and music actually *visible*. This new movement-based art form was to be called "eurythmy."

Eurythmy was adopted and developed by Steiner's disciples around the globe. Every year or two, a performing company comes to Ann Arbor, to the great delight of the active Steiner community here. A dancer and musician myself, I was curious to know what Steiner's response had wrought. In 1996, I was able to catch a performance by the Spring Valley Eurythmy Ensemble, based in Chestnut Ridge, New York. Performing at Slauson Middle School, they brought sweeping music, movement, and color to a bleak winter night.

The program opened with a brief orientation by artistic director Dorothea Meir, a gentle woman in a soft blue gown who explained the basic principles behind eurythmy—I quote the program notes: "when we utter the sounds of language, or sing the tones of music, we set into motion unique, invisible gestures through the air. These flowing movements, intuitively perceived and artistically transformed, become specific, visible gestures belonging to each consonant or vowel, each tone or interval." After Meir demonstrated the swirling arm movement of the "s" sound, the show began.

First up was a performance of Hans Christian Andersen's "The Nightingale." A young man at the podium told the story (through poetry by Kathleen Raine and Robert Penn Warren) in a strangely archaic sort of oratory marked by long, sustained,



quivering vowels and overstated consonants. The dancers, in simple but beautiful fairy-tale costumes, danced about the stage in intricate steps, moving their arms in swishing patterns that reflected the words' cadences. The story emerged, but in an odd, almost stilted way, as if the dancers themselves were puppets, their nearly expressionless faces belying the grace and eloquence of their arms.

A Beethoven sonata followed, then a piece choreographed to Chopin, with the dancers gliding about in filmy skirts and veils, creating patterns that vividly mirrored the structure of the music. It was beautiful—in the way that colors and movement are beautiful—but I quickly tired of the uniform softness of the arms and the frank dissection of the gorgeous music into parts that could be interpreted by different groups of dancers. Questions swirled in my mind: Why did this music need to be made visible at all? Was it in some way incomplete?

The eurythmy-experienced audience didn't seem to share my bewilderment. Evidently I lacked some shared point of reference that was necessary to grasp the performance's meaning. I've had the same feeling watching *Bharata Natyam* Indian dance or hearing Inuit music—intrigued puzzlement, respectful frustration.

There seemed curious rules and limitations afoot. The movement was almost always frontal; only occasionally would anyone turn his or her back, and then, only for a moment. The legs were used only for smoothly gliding the body from place to place, never as sources of their own eloquence. Levels were rarely changed, with no use of the floor. Sustained lyricism, both in dynamics and shape, was ever present—not a hard edge was to be found. Most curious to me was the vacant persona of the dancers during these sections. They rarely looked at one another, or tried to see the audience. It was as if they had put aside their personalities somehow in honor of the music.

The second half of the evening brought with it some levity as the company presented interpretations of poems by E. E. Cummings and some traditional songs (spoken rather than sung). Here, though their movements clearly mirrored the sounds, the content was allowed to shine through and with it a bright, even mischievous humor.

To me, contrast and juxtaposition are what make the relationship between movement and music exciting. I found eurythmy odd and disquieting in their absence. I knew I was seeing something that has been developed and perfected for decades, something that has a complex history, its own technique and language, even its own reason for being. I could respect that—and I did. But as the lights faded on the bright pastel veils circling and swaying, I could think of only one thing: a hothouse flower, fragrant and vibrant, bred under kind but confining glass.

Spring Valley Eurythmy performs at the Power Center on Friday, August 8, as a part of a two-day festival of performing arts associated with Rudolf Steiner.

—Kate Conner-Ruben

an educational or cultural program. This month: Classes on **"Contemporary Russian Culture"** taught by U-M Flint world culture professor Inna Nardoitskaya. The weekly program also includes meetings of the creative writing group **Words for Ourselves, Our Children, Our Community** (12:45 p.m.). Also, at noon, a homemade luncheon buffet ($4, $3 with reservations). All invited. *10:30 a.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

6th Annual Guy Clark Southern Golf Scramble: The Ark/Washtenaw Association for Community Advocacy. A chance to help raise money for two valued local organizations—the Ark music club and WACA, an advocacy agency for retarded and disabled citizens—and to play a round of golf in which each golfer hits the best ball (including putts) of their fivesome. Hosted by Texas singer-songwriter Guy Clark. Prizes, including two hole-in-one contests. Also, at noon a golf clinic by **Danny Britt**, a famed golf instructor whose pupils include PGA stars Tom Kite, Payne Stewart, and Ben Crenshaw. The tournament is followed at 6 p.m. by a "19th-hole reception" (with cash bar) that includes an awards ceremony, a Tex-Mex dinner, and musical entertainment by the **RFD Boys**, a popular local bluegrass band, with various special guests to be announced. Preceded at 11 a.m. by a continental breakfast. *11 a.m. (registration), 1 p.m. (shotgun start), Travis Pointe Country Club, 2829 Travis Pointe Rd. (off Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.). Tickets $135 (fivesomes, $550; dinner only, $30) in advance and (if available) at the gate. 761–1800, 769–5912.*

★**"A Course in Miracles."** *Every Monday.* All invited to discuss spiritual issues raised by *A Course in Miracles*, Helen Shuchman's book of transcriptions of her channelings of new teachings of Jesus. *6:45 p.m., Unity Church of Ann Arbor, 4599 Carpenter Rd. (just south of the I-94 overpass). Free. 434–8545.*

★**"Buying a Home Without Losing Your Shirt": The Buyer's Agent.** Real estate professionals lead a discussion on first-time home buying, including the search process, negotiation, mortgages, and closings. *7–8:30 p.m., The Buyer's Agent, 1900 W. Stadium. Free, but preregistration required. 662–6240.*

Weekly Meeting: Dream Group. *Every Monday.* All invited to discuss their dreams from a Jungian perspective. *7–9:30 p.m., location to be announced. $5 donation. 662–5925.*

★**Weekly Meeting: Huron Valley Toastmasters.** *Every Monday.* Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. A good opportunity to develop confidence in speaking publicly. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by dinner in the U-M Hospital cafeteria. *Note*: Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Wednesday & Thursday (see listings). *7–9 p.m., U-M Main Hospital cafeteria, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free to visitors. Dues: $48 a year (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of $16). 663–1836.*

★**Weekly Meeting: The Shire of Cynnabar (Society for Creative Anachronism).** *Every Monday.* All invited to join this local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism. Each meeting features a workshop on re-creating a different aspect of medieval culture, including heraldry, costuming, embroidery, and other crafts. *7 p.m., 1305 Electrical Engineering & Computer Sciences Bldg., 1311 Beal, North Campus. Free. For information, call Chuck Cohen at 764–4317.*

★**Mike Cluff: Barnes & Noble.** This poet from Riverdale, California, reads from and signs copies of his recently published collection, *Political Prisms. 7:30–8:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

★**Love Riot: Borders Books and Music.** Brief in-store performance by this acoustic band led by vocalist Lisa Matthews which has been described as "a blend of Natalie Merchant and Chrissie Hynde backed by a string quartet." After the set, band members autograph their new CD, *Maybe She Will. 7:30 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**"Monday Evenings with Stephen McLean": LifeTouch Chiropractic.** *August 4 & 18.* A series of talks by this local chiropractor. This month: **"Emotional Health: Accepting Our Feelings"** (tonight) and **"Supporting Our Healing Process"** (August 18). *8 p.m., LifeTouch Chiropractic, 1210 N. Maple Rd. at Miller. Free, but reservations requested. 668–6110.*

★**"The Strategic Therapy Approach to Overcoming the Trauma of Divorce and Enjoying Your Life Now": Counseling Resources of Ann Arbor.** Talk by local social work therapist Bob Egri. Also this month, Egri presents talks on **"The Strategic Therapy Approach to Finally Learning How to Love Yourself Regardless of What You Have Done or What Has Happened to You"** (August 5) and **"The 10 Keys to Making Your Intimate Relationships Work"** (August 6). *8:15–9:15 p.m., location to be announced. Free. Reservations requested. 665–6924.*

FILMS

MTF. "Temptress Moon" (Kaige Chen, 1996). *August 4–7.* A scheming blackmailer sets out to seduce the young woman who heads China's most powerful clan. Leslie Cheung, Gong Li. Mandarin, subtitles. Mich., 7 & 9:30 p.m.

5 TUESDAY

★**"Natural Healing with Nutrition and Herbs with Cindy Klement."** *Every Tuesday.* A series of lectures by this local herbalist, iridologist, and nutritional consultant. This week: **"Weight Management."** Also this month: **"Nutrition for a Better Life"** (August 12), **"Teamwork in Nutrition"** (Au-

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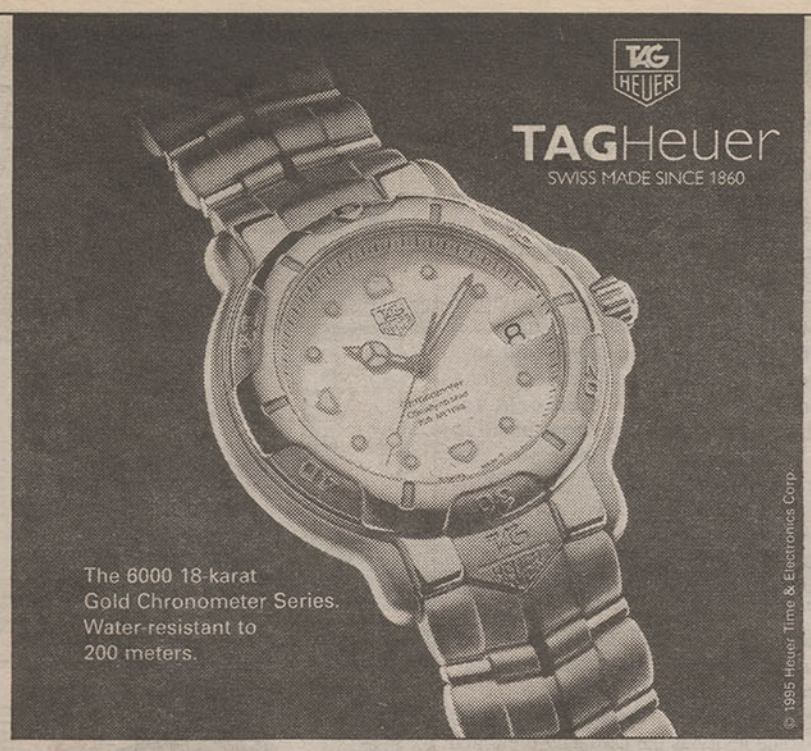

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EVENTS *continued*

gust 19), **"Nutrition and Children"** (August 26). *9:30–10:30 a.m., Gypsy Cafe, 214 N. Fourth Ave. Free. Reservations requested. 769–0095.*

★**Drop-in Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library.** *August 5–7.* Stories, songs, and finger plays for preschoolers age 3 and up. An adult must be present in the library but need not attend. Topics to be announced. *9:30–10 a.m., Ann Arbor District Library, West Branch, Westgate Shopping Center, 2503 Jackson Rd.; Loving Branch, 3042 Creek Dr. (off Packard just east of Platt); & Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall, 2713 Plymouth Rd. Free. 994–1674, 994–2353, 994–3180.*

★**"Discovery Hike": Waterloo Natural History Association.** Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Lisa Gamero leads an early morning hike to explore the Waterloo Recreation Area woods. *10 a.m., Portage Lake campground, Chelsea. (For directions, see 1 Friday "Insect Safari" listing.) Free. $4 vehicle entry fee, unless you already have a state motor vehicle permit ($20 per year). 475–3170.*

★**Five Guys Named Moe: Ann Arbor District Library "Downtown Sounds" Concert Series.** An eclectic mix of styles and genres by this local acoustic swing ensemble. Members are vocalist and multi-instrumentalist Myron Grant, bassist Glenn Bering, fiddler Mary Seelhorst, drummer Eric Nyhuis, and guitarist Jake Reichbart. *12:10–1 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 345 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4510.*

★**"Dragon Tales": Ann Arbor District Library.** Hilarious stories, stand-up comedy, and original songs by ventriloquist **Randall McGee** and his guitar-playing dragon, **Groark.** *2–2:45 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library Loving Branch, 3042 Creek Dr. (off Packard just east of Platt). Free. 994–2353.*

★**"A Challenge": Clare Spitler Works of Art.** Opening of the gallery's annual "summer salon" exhibit of works in assorted media by artists who have shown at the gallery in the past. Includes paintings, drawings, and sculpture by the late George Cismoski, art books by Tokumi Ayzen, book-cover assemblages by Sharon Wysocki, painted silk clothing by Claire Antonia, "inner light sculpture" by Ray Howlett, and watercolors by John Cleary. *2–6 p.m., Clare Spitler Works of Art, 2007 Pauline Ct. Free. 662–8914.*

★**"Introduction to Reiki": Jewel Heart.** *August 5 & 23.* Local Reiki practitioner Mary Beth Rossiter explains this simple technique for self-healing and healing others. Also, free mini-treatments. *4–5 p.m. (August 5) & 2–3:30 p.m. (August 23), Jewel Heart Store, 208 S. Ashley. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 994–3387.*

★**"The Huffin 'n' Puffin Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Tuesday.* Slow-paced ride, 8–10 miles, through Gallup Park and environs. *5:30 p.m., Mitchell/Fuller parking lot, Fuller Rd. (just east of Bonisteel). Free. 994–5494 & 665–4552 (today's ride), 913–9851 (general information).*

★**Criterium Ride: Velo Club.** *Every Tuesday.* A chance for cyclists to practice racing techniques, including cornering and braking. Helmet required. *6 p.m., Runway Plaza, off S. State near the Ann Arbor Airport. Free. 913–9783.*

★**"String Figure Fun": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local string figure artist Marcia Gaynor shows how to make a cat's cradle and other string figures. For kids age 8 & older. *6:30–7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library youth department (1st floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 327–8301.*

Monthly Meeting: Catholic Alumni Group. Single Catholics eligible to marry in the church are invited to join for dinner and socializing, with brief announcements of upcoming events. *6:30 p.m., Abe's Coney Island, 1952 South Industrial. Pay for your own dinner. Reservations requested. 975–2305, 485–0562.*

★**"The Civilized Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Tuesday.* Slow-paced ride, 12–18 miles, to Dexter, with a possible stop for ice cream. *7 p.m. sharp, Wellington Park, Alice at Bruce St. (off Arborview from Miller). Free. 996–2974, 913–9851.*

★**Track Workout: Ann Arbor Track Club.** *Every Tuesday.* Runners (and walkers) of all ages and abilities welcome. Now in their 24th year, the Track Club's workouts are a popular means for runners to train and be timed at various distances. *7 p.m., U-M outdoor track, Hoover at S. State. Free. 663–9740.*

"Printing Made Easy: What Small Business Owners Need to Know": Women Business Owners of Southeast Michigan. Talk by graphic designer Judy Stopke, owner of Stopke Design + Print. Open to all women who own or would like to start a business. Informal networking one half-hour before the meeting. *7–8:30 p.m., 777 Eisenhower at S. State. $10 (members, free). For reservations, call Monica Milla at 944–2133.*

★**Weekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Area Knitters Club.** *Every Tuesday.* Knitters of all levels of experience are invited to join this group that meets weekly to knit together and share techniques and ideas. *7–9 p.m., Brookhaven Manor Retirement Community, 401 Oakbrook Dr. Free. 747–6383.*

★**Weekly Meeting: Huron Valley Greens/U-M Student Greens.** *August 5 & 19.* All invited to discuss and plan various projects, including getting the Green party on the ballot in Michigan. The Greens are a political organization working to integrate the issues of ecologically sound living, grassroots democracy, justice, and nonviolent action. *7–9 p.m., Michigan League, room 2 (1st floor). Free. 663–3555.*

★**"How to Release Your Own Record": Borders Books and Music.** Talk by Tim Sweeney, a widely respected independent music consultant and author of *Tim Sweeney's Guide to Releasing Independent Records. 7:30 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**"Time Trials": Ann Arbor Track Club.** Male and female athletes of all ages and abilities welcome. The order of events is: 100m dash, 1600m run, 400m dash, 800m run, 200m dash, and (if time allows) various relays. *7:30 p.m. (check-in), 7:45 p.m.–dusk (track events), U-M outdoor track, Hoover at S. State. Free. 668–7931.*

★**"Landscape Stewardship": People's Food Co-op.** Magic Garden Landscaping owner Jean Balliet explains how to work with your land so that "earth, plants, stone, and wood are in tune with sun, wind, and water." *7:30–9 p.m., Gypsy Cafe, 214 N. Fourth Ave. Free. Preregistration requested. 769–0095.*

★**"A Guide to the Bodhisattva Way of Life": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** *Every Tuesday.* Talk by Gelek Rinpoche, an incarnate lama from Tibet who currently lives in Ann Arbor. Occasionally, the talk is given by Rinpoche's longtime student Aura Glaser (former owner of Crazy Wisdom Bookstore) or a visiting guest speaker. *7:30 p.m., Jewel Heart Buddhist Center, 211 E. Ann. Free, but donations are accepted. 994–3387.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Sweet Adelines County Connection.** *Every Tuesday.* All women invited to drop in and listen to or participate in the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus, formerly known as the Ann Arbor Sweet Adelines. *7:30–10:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Union Hall, 8975 Textile Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to first-time visitors ($18 monthly dues for those who join). 995–4110.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA.** *Every Tuesday.* All male singers invited to attend the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. Visitors welcome. *7:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 1400 W. Stadium. Free to first-time visitors ($70 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance for instructions. For information, call John Hancock at 769–8169.*

★**Weekly Meeting: Ypsilanti Community Band.** *Every Tuesday.* All musicians invited to join this 50-member community band directed by Ken Bowman. Music & stands provided. Visitors welcome. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Ypsilanti High School, 2095 Packard Rd. at Hewitt. Free. 485–4048, 482–7670.*

★**Solid Frog: "Concerts in the Park" (Saline Area Chamber of Commerce/City of Saline).** Classy alternative rock by this band from Saline. Food concessions. *7:30–9 p.m., Saline City Hall Park, 100 N. Harris, Saline. Free admission. 429–4494.*

Ann Arbor Poetry Slam. All invited to compete in a "poetry slam," in which poets read one of their works in each round of a tournament-style competition for a $10 prize and the heady adrenaline rush that accompanies victory. Preceded and followed by open mike readings, which usually draw an engaging variety of accomplished poets and entertaining monologuists in verse. *7:30–11 p.m., Club Heidelberg (above the Heidelberg Restaurant), 215 N. Main. $3. For information, call Larry Francis at 426–3451.*

★**Poetry Group: Barnes & Noble.** *August 5 & 19.* All poets invited to read their work. Listeners welcome. *8–10 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

Ann Arbor Singles Ballroom Dancers. *Every Tuesday.* Ballroom dancing to live music by Detroit-area bands. All singles invited; married couples also welcome. Refreshments. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a dance class ($3). Dress code observed. *8:30–11:30 p.m., Grotto Club of Ann Arbor, 2070 W. Stadium. $5 (members, $4). 971–2015.*

FILMS

MTF. "Temptress Moon" (Kaige Chen, 1996). See 4 Monday. Mich., 7 & 9:30 p.m.

6 WEDNESDAY

★**"Introduction to the World Wide Web": Ann Arbor District Library.** *August 6, 13, 14, & 28. (different branch locations).* AADL staff explain the basics of the Web and demonstrate how to navigate and search it using the Netscape browser. Open to all who have an AADL library card. *8:30 a.m., Ann Arbor District Library West Branch, Westgate Shopping Center, 2503 Jackson Rd. Free. Preregistration required. 994–2339.*

★**Summer Open House: Triangle Co-op Nursery School.** A chance to meet and socialize with teachers and families and learn about Triangle's preschool programs. Activities and refreshments. *10 a.m.–1 p.m., Allmendinger Park, Pauline at Seventh St. Free. 761–7688.*

★**Adult Study Group: Unity Church of Ann Arbor.** *August 6, 13, & 20.* Unity Church teacher David Bell leads a discussion of Neale Walsch's *Conversations with God. Noon & 7:30 p.m., Unity Church of Ann Arbor, 4599 Carpenter Rd. (just south of the I-94 overpass). Free. 434–8545.*

Wednesday Cooking Class: Kitchen Port. *Every Wednesday.* Cooking demonstrations by local culinary experts. Today: Katherine's Catering chef Al Plungis shows how to make **"Chilled Soups and Summer Appetizers."** Also this month: Kitchen Port's Joyce Herbert offers tips for **"Rice, Bean, and Potato Salads"** (August 13), Kaiser Yang and Siamak Jalali of the West End Grill demonstrate **"West End Grill Menu Items"** (August 20), and Schoolcraft College culinary instructor Terry Morrow shows how to make **"A Fancy and Easy Napoleon"** (August 27). *Noon–1 p.m., Kitchen Port (Kerrytown). $5 includes coffee, taste samples, and recipes. 665–9188.*

★**"Strokes of Genius": U-M Museum of Art ArtVideos.** *Every Wednesday & Thursday.* A series of video documentaries on 20th-century artists. Today & tomorrow: sculptor **David Smith.** Also this month, documentaries on the painters **Franz Kline** (August 13 & 14), **Mark Rothko** (August 20 & 21), and **Jackson Pollock** (August 27 & 28). *12:10 p.m. (Wednesdays) & 7:30 p.m. (Thursdays), UMMA audiovisual room, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764–0395.*

★**Harpbeat: Ann Arbor District Library.** A family-oriented program of stories, songs, and hands-on musical activities by local duo of harpist Donna Novack and percussionist Maria Flurry. *2–3 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library West Branch, Westgate Shopping Center, 2505 Jackson Rd. Free. 994–1674.*

"Wet 'n' Wild Wednesdays": Ann Arbor Parks Department. A variety of family-oriented games and activities. *2–4 p.m., Buhr Park Pool, 2751 Packard Rd. $2 (youths age 17 & under, $1.25; families, $4). 971–3228.*

★**Summer Film Series: U-M Turner Geriatric Services Learning in Retirement Program.** *Every Wednesday.* A series of classic film showings open to anyone age 55 & older. Today: ***Plaza Suite*** (Arthur Hiller, 1971) stars Walter Matthau in an adaptation of the popular Neil Simon comedy. *2 p.m., Kellogg Eye Center auditorium, 1000 Wall St. Free. 764–2556.*

★**"Come Together for Peace Day": Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.** This family outing held on the anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki includes a potluck picnic, games, and activities for all ages. A special program offers dramatizations of creative anti-nuclear weapon protest actions by Michigan groups and individuals. Also, remarks by several Ann Arbor students who visited Hiroshima last fall, peace songs led by Yarrow Halstead and Elise Bryant, a bell choir directed by Carol Muehlig, and a "Ring Out for Peace" (bring your own bells to participate). Concludes with the traditional launching of lantern boats on the Huron River. *6 p.m.–dusk, Gallup Park picnic shelter, 3000 Fuller Rd. at Huron Pkwy. In case of rain, held at Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Free. 663–1870.*

★**Junior Ride: Ann Arbor Velo Club.** *Every Wednesday and Saturday.* A chance for young cyclists ages 10–18 to develop riding experience. Parents should accompany children under 13 on their initial rides. Helmet required. *6 p.m. (Wednesday) & 9 a.m. (Saturday). Meet at Barton Dam, off Huron River Dr. just south of Bird Rd. Free. 913–9783.*

Weekly League: Ann Arbor Area Disc Induced Sports Club. *Every Wednesday from May through September.* Players of all levels are invited to play disc golf (a form of golf played with a Frisbee-like disc) at Hudson Mills Metropark's 18-hole disc golf course. Newcomers are welcome to join the league at any time during the season. Also, AAADISC sponsors weekly doubles play (see 2 Saturday listing). *6 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $20 seasonal fee includes league shirt and discs. Spectators, free. (Park entry fee: $2 per vehicle.) 482–3814, 434–1615.*

★**Weekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Toastmasters Club.** *Every Wednesday.* Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. *Note:* Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Monday & Thursday (see listings). *6:15–7:45 p.m., Concordia College Manor, 4090 Geddes Rd. Free to visitors. Dues: $24 semiannually. 995–7351.*

★**". . . And the Beat Goes On": Michigan Heart and Vascular Institute.** *Every Wednesday.* St. Joseph Mercy Hospital cardiovascular experts offer a series of lectures on maintaining a healthy heart. *6:30 p.m., Michigan Heart and Vascular Institute Auditorium, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, 5301 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 712–3583.*

★**"West Side Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Wednesday.* Slow/moderate-paced ride, 22–25 miles, and a slow-paced ride, 12–17 miles, to the Dexter Dairy Queen and back. *6:30 p.m. sharp, Sweepster parking lot, 2800 N. Zeeb Rd. Free. 426–5116 (longer ride), 665–4552 (shorter ride), 913–9851 (general information).*

★**"Volunteer Stewardship Workday": Ann Arbor Parks Department.** *August 6, 20, & 28.* All invited to help city parks Natural Area Preservation Division staff maintain the natural areas in various city parks. Today: A trip to **Foxfire South Park** to help control the invasion of purple loosestrife by removing their flowering heads. Dress for the outdoor work. *6:30–8:30 p.m., Foxfire South Park, meet at the entrance on Placid Way at Omlesaad Dr. (south off Dhu Varren). Free. 996–3266.*

Weekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Bridge Club. *Every Wednesday.* Each two-person team plays two or three hands against a dozen or so other pairs during the evening. Players at all levels welcome. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early to arrange for one. *7–11 p.m., Walden Hills Clubhouse, 2114 Pauline at Maple. (Park on the north side of Pauline.) $3 per person. 665–3805.*

★**"Introduction to Investment Resources": Ann Arbor District Library.** AADL staff present an overview of the library's print, electronic, and Internet investment resources. *7–8 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 327–4550.*

★**"Children's Story Time": Barnes & Noble.** *Every Wednesday and Thursday,* with free cookies on Wednesdays. Barnes & Noble staffers present storytelling programs and craft activities for kids. This week's topic: **Peter Rabbit** is on hand during readings of some classic Beatrix Potter tales. Also this month: **"Medieval Stories & Games"** (August 13 & 14), Robert McCloskey's **"Blueberries for Sal"** and Bill Peet's **"The Caboose Got Loose"** (August 20 & 21), and **"Back to School Tales"** of the Berenstain Bears, Arthur & Froggy, and other characters from popular children's books (August 27 & 28). *7 p.m. (Wednesdays) & 11 a.m. (Thursdays), Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

★**Achievement Gap Community Organizational Meeting.** All invited to join a new citizens group being organized to help address the racial achievement gap in the public schools, including monitoring the 10 African-American achievement initiatives approved by the school board in June. *7–9 p.m., Firehouse community room (2nd floor), 111 N. Fifth Ave. Free.*

★**African-American Book Reading Club: Little Professor Book Company.** All invited to discuss Rudolph Tischer's novel *The Conjure Man Die. 7–8 p.m., Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. For information, call Veleria Banks at (313) 942–6013.*

★**"Christian Science Testimony Meeting": First Church of Christ, Scientist.** *Every Wednesday.* The church's lay reader reads different selections each week from the Bible and Mary Baker Eddy's *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures.* Followed by testimony of Christian Science healing by congregation members. All invited. *7:30–8:30 p.m., First Church of Christ, Scientist, 1833 Washtenaw. Free. 662–1694.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Computer Society.** Speaker and topic to be announced. All invited to join this club for hardware and software computer professionals interested in networks, multimedia, systems integration, object-oriented programming, C++, Unix, Windows, and other contemporary computing topics. *7:30–9:30 p.m., 1200 U-M Electrical Engineering & Computer Sciences Bldg., 1301 Beal, North Campus. Free. For information, use E-mail through Internet (aacs-info@msen.com) or CompuServe (72241,155), or call 741–1188.*

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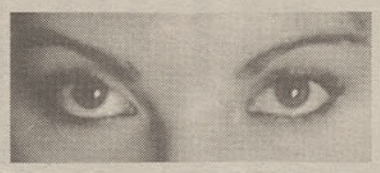

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EVENTS *continued*

★**Folk Dancing: U-M Folk Dance Club.** *August 6 & 20.* Line, circle, and couples dances from around the world. All invited; no partner needed. Beginners and onlookers welcome. New dances taught at 8 & 9 p.m. Refreshments available. *8–10:30 p.m., Leonardo's, U-M Pierpont Commons, corner of Bonisteel and Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764–7544, 662–4258, 769–0152.*

"Off the Map": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Totally Unrehearsed Theater": Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. *Every Wednesday.* An evening of improvisational comedy with this acclaimed 5-member Detroit-based improv troupe whose shows also include some scripted skits and stand-up comedy. Named "Best Local Comedians" in the *Metro Times* 1997 Best of Detroit awards. Also, open mike performers. Alcohol served. *8:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $4 (students with ID, $2). 996–9080.*

FILMS

MTF. "Temptress Moon" (Kaige Chen, 1996). See 4 Monday. Mich., 7 p.m. **"Watermelon Woman"** (Cheryl Dunye, 1996). *August 6–8.* The director stars in this comedy about the professional and personal adventures of a young black lesbian filmmaker. Mich., 9:30 p.m.

7 THURSDAY

★**Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Thursday.* A weekly program of activities primarily for seniors. The program begins at 10 a.m. with an educational film. This month: **"Genesis: The Stories,"** a series of film versions of stories from Genesis. At 11 a.m., **Current Events,** a discussion group led by nonagenarian Ben Bagdade. At noon, a homemade dairy lunch ($3 with reservation, $4 without reservation and for nonseniors). At 12:45 p.m., an educational or cultural presentation. This week: An **Ice Cream Social** (reservations required). Also this month, RSVP coordinator Tisha Delarosa discusses **"Volunteer Opportunities Available Through RSVP"** and U-M Law School audiovisual programs coordinator David Pearl discusses **"That's My Kid, the . . ."** (August 14), Nancy Luomala presents a slide-illustrated talk on **"Historical Architecture in China"** (August 21), and U-M Comprehensive Cancer Center director Max Wicha discusses **"That's My Kid, the . . ."** (August 28). The weekly program concludes with a meeting of the **Senior Literary Group** (2 p.m.), a book discussion group led by U-M Dearborn English professor emeritus Sidney Warschausky. Also, August 21 only, Huron Valley Ambulance community relations assistant Michael Qualls offers free blood pressure testing (10 a.m.–noon). All invited. *10 a.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★**"Journey to the Heart: Spiritual Development Through the Chakras."** *Every Thursday.* All women invited to join this women's study and support group for discussions led by retired psychotherapist Ann Schoonmaker. Resource materials are Caroline Myss's books and tapes. *10 a.m.–noon, Genesis of Ann Arbor, 2309 Packard. Free. 761–9044.*

★**Five Guys Named Moe: U-M Hospitals Gifts of Art.** Eclectic acoustic swing by this popular local quintet. Held in the hospital's 1st-floor lobby if the weather is bad. *Noon, University Hospital Courtyard (behind the main hospital), 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

"Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social": Ann Arbor Senior Center. Live big band music and other entertainment, antique car displays, and more. Also, hot dogs, ice cream sundaes, and baked goods for sale. *Noon–3 p.m., Burns Park shelter. Free admission. Preregistration suggested. 769–5911.*

★**Summer Storytelling Series: U-M Museum of Art.** *August 7, 14, & 21.* A series of weekly storytelling sessions featuring local performers and personalities. Most of them tell tales based on the UMMA's works of art. Today's storyteller: **Elizabeth James,** whose stories often deal with African-American and Native American cultures. Also this month: **Trudy Bulkley** (August 14) and **Barbara Jones-Clark** (August 21). *1 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free; donations accepted. 764–0395.*

★**"Access Soapbox": Ann Arbor Community Television Network.** *Every Thursday.* A chance to express your views, discuss your activities, or announce upcoming events on the local public access station (cable channel 9). Participants are free to talk about anything they wish within CTN guidelines: no direct solicitation of funds, no lottery information, and no material that is obscene, defamatory, invasive of personal privacy, or infringing on copyrights or trademarks. Limited to 5 minutes, each segment features one or two speakers (with no more than two graphics) who talk directly to the camera. Production crew provided by CTN. "Access Soapbox" shows are aired daily for one week, beginning on Sunday. *2–7 p.m., CTN studio, Edison Center, Suite LL114, 425 S. Main. Free. Reservations accepted Tuesday through Friday of the week preceding your appearance. 769–7422.*

★**"An Afternoon with Michael Deren": Ann Arbor District Library.** This accomplished folksinger offers a musical tour of Michigan in the 1870s. *2–3 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 327–8301.*

Chess Clubs: Adventures in Chess. *Every Thursday.* A chance for young people age 17 & under (3:30–7:30 p.m.) and adults (7–11 p.m.) to play chess with their peers. Chess sets provided. *3:30–11 p.m., Adventures in Chess, 220 S. Main (below Elmo's Supershirts). $3 (members, free). Memberships are $49 a year. 665–0612.*

★**Road Ride: Ann Arbor Velo Club.** *Every Thursday.* All welcome to join a training ride on roads in and around Ann Arbor. Riders grouped by experience. Helmet required. *6 p.m. Meet at Barton Dam, off Huron River Dr. just south of Bird Rd. Free. 913–9783.*

★**"Domino's Dirt Bike Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Thursday.* Slow-paced 15-mile ride on mountain or wide-tired road bikes over the lightly traveled hard dirt roads behind Domino's Farms. *7 p.m., meet at Domino's Farms, Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Free. 995–5107 & 996–2974 (today's ride), 913–9851 (general information).*

★**Weekly Meeting: Washtenaw Toastmasters.** *Every Thursday.* Members develop public-speaking skills in a supportive environment. A good opportunity to develop confidence in speaking publicly. Free to visitors. *Note:* Different Toastmasters chapters meet Mondays and Wednesdays (see listings). *7–9 p.m., 777 Bldg. dining room, 777 E. Eisenhower at S. State. Free to visitors. Dues: $24 a year (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of $16). 487–6547.*

★**"Strokes of Genius": U-M Museum of Art ArtVideos.** See 6 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

★**Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Jaycees.** All people ages 21–39 are invited to join this organization devoted to promoting leadership training, community service, and individual development. Discussion topics to be announced. Newcomers welcome. *7:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., room 101, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 913–9629.*

Weekly Meeting: Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. *Every Thursday.* Instruction for intermediate-level dancers in a wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, followed by social dancing. *7:30–9:30 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver Rd. (off Nixon Rd). $3. 769–4324.*

★**Gazebo Concerts: Manchester Recreation Task Force.** *August 7 & 14.* A continuing series of outdoor concerts in the charming gazebo at the center of Manchester. Tonight: Performance by two area barbershop quartets: **County Chorus** and **Musical Moments.** *7:30 p.m., Manchester green, Main St., downtown Manchester. Free; donations welcome. 428–7722.*

★**"Oz's Open Mike": Oz's Music.** All musicians invited. Hosted by local singer-songwriter Lili Fox. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1920 Packard. Free. 662–8283.*

David Wilcox: The Ark. Acclaimed singer-songwriter from Boston whose songs are known for their emotional force and directness and for their canny blend of pop and folk aesthetics. His voice is often described as sounding like a softer, warmer James Taylor, and he's also a dynamic guitarist who favors offbeat tunings. His new CD, *Turning Point,* is a collection of confessional story songs about changing relationships and life choices. *7:30 & 9:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $13.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

★**Weekly Meeting: U-M Sailing Club.** *Every Thursday.* Introductory presentation on sailing, discussion of sailing topics, and socializing. Also, a chance for beginning and experienced sailors to learn about the club's many sailing and sailboarding activities, including Saturday sailing and sailboarding instruction and Sunday races at Base Line Lake. All invited. *7:45 p.m., 120 Dennison Bldg., 501 East University. Free. 426–0920. Clubhouse phone: 426–4299.*

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Naturalist Faye Stoner leads a variety of family-friendly walks to examine summer flora and fauna in Hudson Mills Metropark, Aug. 1, 2, 9, & 13, and in Dexter-Huron Metropark on Aug. 24.

"Open Jam": Griff's Jams. *Every Thursday.* Musicians of all levels of ability invited to bring their instruments to the sound rooms formerly occupied by WPAG radio to meet other musicians, make music, and have fun. Bring sheet music to pass out. Organized by local musician and DJ Jim Griffin. *8–11 p.m., 106 E. Liberty (3rd floor). $2 suggested donation. 761–MUSIC.*

Leone Buyse: Kerrytown Concert House. A program of contemporary works for flute and piccolo featuring this Rice University (Texas) music professor, a former U-M flute professor and past principal flutist with the Boston Pops. She is joined tonight by pianist **Stephen Buck** and clarinetist **Michael Webster** for a program that includes duos by John Harbison and Bram van Leer and David Loeb's Six Preludes for solo piccolo. *8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $7 & $10 (students, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

"Waiting for Godot": John Henry Production Group. *August 7–10.* This new troupe of U-M and EMU students presents Beckett's modernist classic. *8 p.m., Trueblood Theater, Frieze Bldg., 105 S. State. $8 at the door only. 769–7195.*

"Drop Dead!": Drake Enterprises/Mercury Theater. *August 7–10, 14–17, & 21–24.* Paul Carras and John Inloes direct Billy Van Zandt and Jane Milmore's murder-mystery-within-a-murder-mystery farce about a former child actor trying to make a comeback in a 3rd-rate whodunit when, during the final dress rehearsal, the actors start getting killed. The cast, a mix of Performance Network veterans and newcomers, includes Martin Felipe, Jeff Stringer, Randy Stewart, Brian Falkner, Anne Rhoades, Nona Bennett, Ingrid Eggertsen, Dan Beckett, Bruce Bertram, Mandy Blake, and Eric Bassey. *8 p.m., Performance Network, 408 W. Washington. Tickets $12 (students & seniors, $9; Thursdays, whatever you can afford to pay) in advance by reservation and at the door. For reservations, call 663–0681; to charge by phone, call 663–0696.*

"Off the Map": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

★**"Breaking New Ground": Anthroposophical Society of America.** *August 7–9.* This 3-day conference on anthroposophy, the "spiritual science" developed by Rudolf Steiner, features several performances of the arts associated with Rudolf Steiner. Tonight: **"The Spirit of America in Song,"** a performance by the Community Choir, an ensemble of parents, teachers, and friends of the Detroit Waldorf School and the Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor. Dina Winter directs. *8:15 p.m., Power Center. Free. 662–9355.*

★**Weekly Meeting: Shorinji Kempo.** *Every Thursday.* All invited to try this Japanese self-defense system which combines hard and soft techniques with Zen philosophy. Club members also meet weekly for noncompetitive practice. *8:30–10 p.m., Dance Gallery Studio, 111 Third St. at W. Huron. Free to first-time visitors ($25 monthly dues). 332–1780.*

A. Whitney Brown: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. *August 7–9.* This Emmy-winning former "Saturday Night Live" writer first gained attention with the withering, Swiftian ironies and lethal acuity of his occasional "Big Picture" commentaries during the SNL "Weekend Update" segment. Brown also won an Emmy for his writing on SNL, including Jon Lovitz's "pathological liar" routines. He's currently a regular correspondent on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show." *Rolling Stone* calls him "the decade's most biting political satirist." Alcohol is served. *8:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $12 in advance and at the door. Group rates and other discounts available. 996–9080.*

FILMS

MTF. "Temptress Moon" (Kaige Chen, 1996). See 4 Monday. Mich., 7 p.m. **"Watermelon Woman"** (Cheryl Dunye, 1996). See 6 Wednesday. Mich., 9:30 p.m.

8 FRIDAY

★**"Dressage at Waterloo": Waterloo Hunt Club.** *August 8–10.* Top riders from around the world compete in this international event, a qualifier for the 1997 Pan American games. Dressage, which derives from the French word for training, is the equine equivalent of ballet. Horse and rider must perform extremely athletic prescribed movements with as little noticeable effort as possible. Bring your own lawn chairs. Food concessions. *8 a.m.–5 p.m. Waterloo Hunt Club, corner of Glenn and Katz, Grass Lake. (Take I-94 west to exit 150, go north 2 miles on Mt. Hope Rd., and turn right onto Glenn.) Free. For more information, call Linda Rand at (810) 645–9042. Show grounds: (517) 522–5311.*

Old Milan Fest: Milan Parks and Recreation. *August 8 & 9.* Display of antique cars and radio-controlled model airplanes, a hot-air balloon launch, a sidewalk chalk-drawing contest, a "Huck Finn fishing derby," face painting, a kiddie parade, a dog pageant, a teddy bear contest, pancake breakfast, ice cream social, craft booths, and more. Also, a **doll house and miniature tour** featuring displays in storefronts and city buildings throughout downtown. Milan stores offer special sidewalk sales this weekend. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., Wabash-Wilson Park, Milan. (Take US-23 south to Plank Rd. exit and turn left onto Wabash Rd.). Free admission. 439–1549.*

★**"Tracks and Scat": Waterloo Natural History Association.** Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Lisa Gamero shows how to learn what animals have been in the area by examining what they leave behind, followed by a short hike to test your skills. *10 a.m., Portage Lake campground, Chelsea. (For directions, see 1 Friday "Insect Safari" listing.) Free. $4 vehicle entry fee, unless you already have a state motor vehicle permit ($20 per year). 475–3170.*

★**"Summer Movies at the Library": Ann Arbor District Library.** Showing of ***Cheetah,*** a 1989 Disney film about two American kids living with their parents in Kenya who adopt an orphaned cheetah and raise it as a pet. For kids 6 & older. Space limited; first come, first seated. *10 a.m. & 2 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower lever), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 994–2345.*

★**"Dexter Daze": Dexter Daze Committee (Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce).** *August 8 & 9.* Two days of fun and festivities in Dexter's quaint, charming Gazebo Park. Includes a horseshoe-throwing contest, antique car show, arts and crafts booths, special exhibits at the Dexter History Museum, merchant sidewalk sales, yard sales around town, and of course lots of food and drinks. Today's entertainment includes puppet shows by **Fantasy E-Fex**

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Zest is the feeling we should have about life. **Joy** from our work and loved ones should occur naturally.

The natural states of zest and joy can be blocked or inhibited. Fear or worry can interfere. Unconscious feelings, beliefs, ideas and fears can be operating without our even knowing it. We may experience increased or decreased sleep, appetite or sexual desire, tearfulness, hopelessness, irritability, or have suicidal thoughts. Conflicts with significant others or at work may appear to be external when in fact they are caused by internal conflicts. Unconscious conflicts and/or buried emotional traumas may be keeping us away from others or compulsively driving us toward others in unproductive ways. Sometimes all that may be apparent is that zest is lacking, and we have little joy for life.

The absence of zest and joy is not natural but we may have wrongly grown to believe that not having them is normal. Usually the interferences of zest and joy are partial and thus we are living at a limited capacity. Most often the interferences can be removed, zest can return, and life can be enjoyed fully.

Proper and thorough assessment of the blockage and a designed means to remove them are essential. Everyone deserves such an assessment and the subsequent opportunity to feel zestful about life.

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Charles Gerard Hurbis, M.D.
is pleased to announce his association with Frank Ritter, M.D. at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in the practice of Otolaryngology for the treatment of diseases of the ear, nose & throat.

Dr. Hurbis brings to the practice extensive experience in the treatment of sinus disease, skin cancer, pediatric disease and facial plastic surgery. Dr. Hurbis, a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Medicine, is board certified in Otolaryngology and is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American Academy of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery.

Appointments with Dr. Hurbis may be scheduled at 313-434-3341.

EVENTS *continued*

Puppet Theater (11 a.m. & 2 p.m.), magic and more by **Zeemo the Magnificent** (12:30–1:30 p.m.), Dixieland jazz by the **Dixie Syncopators** (2–3:30 p.m.), a magic and balloon show by **Colors the Clown** (3–5 p.m.), rock 'n' roll oldies by **Big Pinky & the Joint Effort Band** (3:30–5 p.m.), classic country and country-based rock 'n' roll by **Drivin' Sideways** (5:30–7:30 p.m.), and New Orleans-style funk and soul-inflected R&B by the **Al Hill Band** (8–11 p.m.). *10 a.m.–11 p.m., Dexter Gazebo Park, intersection of Dexter–Ann Arbor and Baker roads, Dexter. Free shuttle bus service from Dexter High School. Free admission. 426–2888.*

★**Organ Concert Series: American Guild of Organists/St. Luke's Episcopal Church.** See 1 Friday. Today's performer: **Tim Huth.** 12:15 p.m.

"Breaking New Ground": Anthroposophical Society of America. See 7 Thursday. Today's public events: The Green Snake Players perform scenes from their puppet play adaptation of Goethe's ***The Green Snake and the Beautiful Lily*** (2:30 p.m., Power Center); students of the Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor present a **"Children's Eurythmy Performance"** (2:30 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater); **Manfred Meier,** a teacher of developmentally handicapped children at Camphill Village Beaver Run in Nantmeal, PA, presents a workshop on **"Colored Light"** therapy (2:30 p.m., 3435 Mason Hall); the **Austin Eurythmy Performing Group** presents **"Set the Light on Fire"** (4:30 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater); and **Spring Valley Eurythmy** *(see review, p. 55)* presents **"An Evening of Artistic Movement to Poetry and Music"** (8:15 p.m., Power Center). All events are $10 at the door only. 2:30 p.m.

★**Second Friday Discussion: Great Lakes Pathwork.** All invited to discuss lectures channeled by the late Eva Pierrakos, founder of the spiritual and psychological discipline known as the Pathwork. Tonight: **"Lecture #123: Liberation and Peace by Overcoming Fear of the Unknown."** *7–9 p.m., 2518 Jade Ct. (off S. Maple, 2 blocks north of Scio Church Rd.). Free. 665–6231, 930–0864.*

★**"Introduction to Computers": Ann Arbor District Library.** Introduction to computers, with an emphasis on such basic skills as using a mouse, opening and closing an application, formatting, saving to a disk, printing, and more. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library West Branch, Westgate Shopping Center, 2503 Jackson Rd. Free. Preregistration required. 994–1674.*

★**Kidfolk: Ann Arbor District Library.** A family-oriented evening of songs and stories performed by **Kitty Donohoe,** an Irish-American singer-songwriter from Detroit known for her bell-like soprano—an instrument that has been described as "rich, flexible, soaring, and haunting." She performs on guitar, banjo, mountain dulcimer, spoons, limberjack, and other instruments. *7–8:30 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall, 2713 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration required. 994–2339.*

★**Monthly Bardic Night: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to join an evening of free-form drumming, singing, and dancing. *7–11 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill St. (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 434–7444.*

"Seth Series on Emerging Multidimensional Relationships": Ann Arbor Practical Psychic Center. Talk by **John Friedlander,** coauthor of *The Practical Psychic* and a member of Jane Roberts's original Seth channeling group. Friedlander channels Seth and takes questions. *7:30–9:30 p.m., St. Joseph's Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5301 E. Huron River Dr. $10. 662–7046, 663–6075.*

★**"Turning Memories into Memoirs": Shaman Drum Bookshop.** Workshop on memoir writing for both writers and nonwriters presented by **Sebastian Matthews,** a U-M creative writing grad whose work has appeared in several prominent literary magazines. He is currently working on a collection of imaginative nonfiction. *8 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

"Waiting for Godot": John Henry Production Group. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Off the Map": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Drop Dead!": Drake Enterprises/Mercury Theater. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

A. Whitney Brown: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 7 Thursday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Shall We Dance?" (Masayuki Suo, 1997). *August 8–21.* Winning comedy about a bored Japanese businessman who takes up ballroom dancing. Japanese, subtitles. *Entertainment to be announced in the theater lobby.* Mich., 8 p.m. **"Watermelon Woman"** (Cheryl Dunye, 1996). See 6 Wednesday. Mich., 11 p.m.

9 SATURDAY

★**"Dressage at Waterloo": Waterloo Hunt Club.** See 8 Friday. 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Community Garage Sale: Recycle Ann Arbor. All invited to sell their excess & unwanted stuff. At 10 a.m., ReUse Center manager Dan McQueer, an experienced contractor, presents a workshop on a topic to be announced. Also, a chance to check out the new ReUse Center's stock of salvaged construction, remodeling, and demolition waste. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., RAA ReUse Center, 2420 South Industrial. Free admission. Reservations for sellers required by August 8. 662–6288, ext. 11.*

Old Milan Fest: Milan Parks and Recreation. See 8 Friday. 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

"The Card Show": Ann Arbor Community Center/Youth Services. Some 20–30 card dealers from throughout Michigan and out of state offer a vast array of sports and other collector cards. Selected cards are auctioned off at the end of the day. Door prizes include a $25 "shopping spree" good at any of the dealer tables. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main. Admission $1. 662–3128.*

★**"Dexter Daze": Dexter Daze Committee (Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce).** See 8 Friday. Today's entertainment includes the **Dexter Daze Parade** (10 a.m.), storytelling by **LaRon Williams** (12:30–1:30 p.m.), a family-oriented program of originals and folk songs from around the world by the acoustic duo **Gemini** (2–3 p.m.), Dixieland jazz by **Ragtime Charlie and Sister Kate** (3:30 p.m.), bluegrass by the **RFD Boys** (5–7:30 p.m.), and honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll classics by **George Bedard and the Kingpins** (8–11 p.m.). Also, raffle drawings at 4 & 6:15 p.m. 10 a.m.–11 p.m.

★**Warhammer Fantasy Battle Tournament: The Underworld.** All invited to play this tactical miniatures board game. *Noon, The Underworld, 1202 South University. Free. 998–0547.*

★**"Riverbank Hike": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs.** Hudson Mills naturalist Faye Stoner leads a walk along the edge of the Huron River to look for wildlife that lives in and around it and to enjoy the river. Wear old shoes if you want to wade in the river. *1 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Rapids View picnic area, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. Free. (Park entry fee: $3 per vehicle.) Preregistration requested. 426–8211.*

★**"Wildlife Folklore": Waterloo Natural History Association.** Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Lisa Gamero tells stories based on animal folklore of Native Americans and other cultures. *2 p.m., Gerald E. Eddy Geology Center, Bush Rd., Chelsea. (Take I-94 west to exit 157, follow Pierce Rd. north to Bush Rd., and go west on Bush Rd. The Geology Center is on the left.) Free. $4 vehicle entry fee, unless you already have a state motor vehicle permit ($20 per year). 475–3170.*

"The Way of the Heart." *August 9 & 12.* Monthly showing of this introductory video on the life of **Adi Da,** the Western-born adept formerly known as Da Free John. Followed by discussion with local resident Barbara Sanicki. *2 p.m. (today) & 7 p.m. (August 12), 1513 Jones Dr., Apt. 11. Donation. 761–4710.*

"Breaking New Ground": Anthroposophical Society of America. See 7 Thursday. Today's public events: **Helga Mattke and the Boulder Eurythmy Group** present a **"Eurythmy Workshop"** (2:30 p.m., Power Center); the **Rudolf Steiner Institute Theater Group** presents scenes from Rudolf Steiner's mystery play ***The Soul Awakening*** (2:30 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater); the **Magic Garden Puppets** present 3 sketches of multicultural America (2:30 p.m., Michigan League location to be announced); **Spring Valley Eurythmy** *(see review, p. 55)* presents a **"Eurythmy Workshop"** (4:30 p.m., Power Center); the **Alchymie Theater Group** of Chicago presents the prelude and interlude from Rudolf Steiner's mystery play ***The Portal of Initiation*** (4:30 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater); and speech artist **Michael Steinrueck** recites **"The Poetry of E. E. Cummings"** (4:30 p.m., Michigan League location to be announced). The conference concludes this evening with **"Kaleidoscope of America"** (8:15 p.m., Power Center), a program of music and movement presented by the **Detroit Concert Choir** and the **HOSTIA** eurythmy troupe of Detroit, with vocal soloists **Valerie Yova** of the Lyric Chamber Ensemble and **Marsha Fasi** of Opus

7, and a brass ensemble conducted by Ann Arbor Summer Symphony artisitc director Jon Krueger. The program includes works by George Gershwin, Aaron Copland, Angela Morgan, Langston Hughes, and Carl Sandburg. All events are $10 at the door only, except the Magic Garden Puppets, which is $2.50. 2:30 p.m.

★"Animania": U-M Japanese Animation Film Society. Monthly 6-hour festival of Japanese animated films and TV cartoons. Japanese, subtitles. *U-M campus admission policy:* No one under 18 admitted without an adult. *5–11 p.m., Modern Languages Bldg. Auditorium 3, 812 E. Washington at Thayer. Free. For more information, E-mail animania@umich.edu, or visit the Web site at http://www.umich.edu/~animania.*

★"Reveling on the River": Ann Arbor Parks Department. *August 9 & 23.* Bring a blanket and a picnic for a relaxing evening on the banks of the Huron River. Tonight's entertainment is **Geri's Jamboree,** a family-oriented program of songs and sing-alongs by multi-instrumentalist Geri Green. *6:30–7:30 p.m., Gallup Park canoe livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 662–9319.*

★Wanda Olugbala and Aurora Harris: Shaman Drum Bookshop. Readings by these two Detroit poets. Olugbala's poems explore the violence and the beauty of Detroit neighborhoods, and Harris's poems bear witness to women's experiences, especially in the contemporary urban world. Following the reading, the poets sign copies of their books. Refreshments. *8 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

Spencer Barefield Quartet: Kerrytown Concert House. Jazz by this top-notch quartet headed by guitarist Barefield, a U-M music professor who has performed with such greats as Roscoe Mitchell, Lester Bowie, and others and released several acclaimed recordings. Other members are pianist **Henry Gibson** (winner of the 1991 Hennessey Cognac International Jazz Search) and Griot Galaxy members **Jaribu Shahid** on bass and **Tani Tabbal** on drums. *8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $8 & $12 (students, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

New Directors Showcase: P.T.D. Productions. This local theater troupe presents four one-act plays, each about a different stage of life. K. Blake MacGregor directs Thornton Wilder's ***Infancy,*** a humorous look at life through the eyes of babies. Marie Jones directs Alison Zell's ***Come to Leave,*** a woman's reflections on the loss of her father when she was a teenager, and Christopher Durang's ***Naomi in the Living Room,*** a surreal, madcap comedy about middle age. Ian Stines directs Robert Anderson's ***I'm Herbert,*** a warmhearted look at the kaleidoscoping memories of old age. Includes an afterglow reception with the performers. A benefit for the Riverside Arts Center. *8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Tickets $15, available in advance or at the door. For reservations, call 483–7345.*

"Waiting for Godot": John Henry Production Group. See 7 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Off the Map": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Drop Dead!": Drake Enterprises/Mercury Theater. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

A. Whitney Brown: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 7 Thursday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

★Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers. See 2 Saturday. Sunset–12:30 p.m.

FILMS

CG. "Metropolis" (Fritz Lang, 1926). Landmark futuristic silent film about the dangers of technology. Nat. Sci. 7 & 10:10 p.m. **"Hiroshima, Mon Amour"** (Alain Resnais, 1959). A French actress and a Japanese architect have a brief affair in postwar Hiroshima. French, subtitles. Nat. Sci., 8:40 p.m. **MTF. "Shall We Dance?"** (Masayuki Suo, 1997). See 8 Friday. Mich., 4:30, 7, & 9:30 p.m. **U-M Japanese Animation Film Society. "Animania."** See Events listing above. FREE. MLB 3; 5–11 p.m.

10 SUNDAY

★"Dressage at Waterloo": Waterloo Hunt Club. See 8 Friday. 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

"Lopez Fiesta Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Fast-paced 70-mile and moderate-paced 54-mile rides to the Lopez family farm in Ridgeway for an authentic Mexican-style meal. Also, a slow-paced 35-mile ride to the same destination leaves at 10 a.m. from the municipal parking lot on Saline–Ann Arbor Rd. (just south of US-12) in downtown Saline. *9 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. $6 donation. Reservations required by August 5. 663–5060 (70-mile ride), 973–9225 (54-mile ride), 741–4991 (35-mile ride), 913–9851 (general information).*

Ann Arbor Artisan Market. See 3 Sunday. Today: chamber music by **Horatio's Fancy,** a **quilting demonstration** by Kate Keever, and **fabric painting** by Denise DeGarmo. 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Monthly Gathering: Second Sunday Schmoozers. All Jewish singles invited to meet new friends over brunch. *11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Zanzibar restaurant, 214 S. State. Free (pay for your own food). 973–8699.*

"Aliens Among Us!": Leslie Science Center (Ann Arbor Parks Department). Leslie Science Center staff lead a hike to look for and learn about invasive plant species that are driving native species from their local habitats. *1–2:30 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $3 (families, $10). Preregistration required. 662–7802.*

Kids' Open Mike: Oz's Music. Kids of all ages and all musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. *1 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1920 Packard. Minimum donation: 25¢. Call ahead to reserve a space. 662–8283.*

★"Marker": Aunt Agatha's. Lowell Cauffiel is on hand to sign copies of his Elmore Leonard–style thriller about a Michigan judge and the two ex-cons who try to frame him. *2–4 p.m., Aunt Agatha's, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769–1114.*

"Waiting for Godot": John Henry Production Group. See 7 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Off the Map": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Drop Dead!": Drake Enterprises/Mercury Theater. See 7 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★"Booked for Murder": Little Professor Book Company. All invited to discuss a murder mystery to be announced. *5–7 p.m., Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. For information, call Margaret Yang at 769–3362.*

★Annual World Walk for Breast-Feeding: La Leche League International. All invited to join a 1-mile fund-raiser walk for this group that advocates the benefits of breast-feeding. Proceeds benefit local, state, and international La Leche chapters. Followed by a **family potluck;** bring a drink, a dish to pass, and your own table service. Rain date: August 17. *5 p.m., Gallup Park fishing pond, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. For sponsor forms or more information, call 662–0869.*

★Discussion Group: New Work Institute. All invited to discuss strategies of personal entrepreneurship that provide meaningful work and support one's self, family, and community. The focus this month is career management and business start-up. *7 p.m., location to be announced. Free. 668–8043, 995–3671.*

★Monthly Meeting: Amnesty International Ann Arbor Community Group. All invited to join this local chapter of Amnesty International, a group that works on behalf of prisoners of conscience around the world. Agenda to be announced. *7–8 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 973–7004.*

Weekly Meeting: U-M Ballroom Dance Club. *August 10, 17, & 24.* Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Also, beginning lessons in jive (August 10 & 17) and the Charleston (August 24). The club holds its summer dance party on August 3 (see listing). *7–8 p.m. (beginning lessons), 8–9:30 p.m. (general dancing), Michigan Union Ballroom. $2. 763–6984.*

Kelly Willis: The Ark. Ann Arbor debut of this acclaimed young sweet-voiced singer-songwriter from Austin, Texas, whose material ranges from hard country to country-rock to pop. Though she has released three CDs and had a 1993 hit with a cover of Marshall Crenshaw's "Whatever Way the Wind Blows", Willis is most widely known from her performances on the *Thelma and Louise* soundtrack. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $12 (members, students, & seniors, $11) at the door only. 761–1451.*

FILMS

MTF. "Shall We Dance?" (Masayuki Suo, 1997). See 8 Friday. Mich., 4:30, 7, & 9:30 p.m.

11 MONDAY

★"South by Southwest Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *August 11, 18, & 25.* Fast-paced training ride, 20–30 miles, along varying routes southwest of town. *6:30 p.m., 1923 Dunmore (off Waverly from Scio Church Rd. (between S. Seventh and I-94). Free. 747–9360 (today's ride), 994–0044 (general information).*

★Biweekly Meeting: Working Writers Group. *August 11 & 25.* All invited to join this group that provides support and critiques for writers interested in publishing their poetry, fiction, or nonfiction. Observers welcome. *7–9 p.m., 2910 Marshall. Free.*

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EVENTS *continued*

For information, call Dale at 973–0776 or Sylvan at (810) 471–0188.

★**"The Global Brain": Common Boundaries.** Showing of a videotaped talk by British author and scientist Peter Russell, followed by discussion. Refreshments. *7:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. For information, call Gary Logan at 484–6620.*

★**"Health and Chiropractic": Network Chiropractic Center.** *August 11 & 25.* A series of talks by local chiropractor Rob Koliner. This month: **"Children and Chiropractic"** (tonight) and **"What is the Difference between Network and 'Regular' Chiropractic"** (August 25). *8 p.m., Network Chiropractic Center, 1210 N. Maple Rd. at Miller. Free. Reservations requested. 761–5908.*

FILMS

MTF. "Shall We Dance?" (Masayuki Suo, 1997). See 8 Friday. Mich., 7 & 9:30 p.m.

12 TUESDAY

★**"Quick Frozen Critters": Waterloo Natural History Association.** Waterloo Recreation area park interpreter Lisa McDonald explains special adaptations that enable predators and their prey to survive. *10 a.m., meet at the ball field in Portage Lake campground, Chelsea. (For directions, see 1 Friday "Insect Safari" listing.) Free. $4 vehicle entry fee, unless you already have a state motor vehicle permit ($20 per year). 475–3170.*

Alumni University Summer Seminars: U-M Alumni Association. Part of a 4-month series of seminars led by U-M faculty and staff. Coffee is served. Today: U-M history professor Sidney Fine discusses **"The Prohibition Experiment (1895–1933)."** Also this month, U-M social work and economics professor Sherrie Kossoudji discusses **"Immigrants and Assimilation: Facts, Myths, and Something Else"** (August 14). *10 a.m., U-M Alumni Center, 200 Fletcher St. $12 per seminar. 763–9707.*

★**Morning Coffee: Coterie-Newcomers Club of Ann Arbor.** Informal; children welcome. Coterie is open to all women who have moved or returned to the Ann Arbor–Ypsilanti area. *10 a.m.–noon, Fuller Park play area. Free. 668–2872.*

Canoe Instruction Clinic: Ann Arbor Parks Department. A popular way for individuals and families to learn basic canoeing techniques. One hour of instruction, followed by a leisurely hour of practice paddling. *10 a.m.–noon, Gallup Park canoe livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). $7.50. Preregistration required. 662–9319.*

★**"Women Over 50: The Impact of Domestic Violence": Domestic Violence Project/SAFE House.** Speakers to be announced lead this public forum on domestic violence and how to prevent it. All invited to bring a bag lunch. *Noon–2 p.m., SAFE House, 4100 Clark Rd. Free. 973–0242, ext. 202.*

Second Tuesday Wine Tasting: Mediterrano. A series of fun and relaxed monthly wine tastings featuring the wines of different Mediterranean countries. Each session features four wines from a particular country, with finger foods and tips on tasting. This month: **Spain.** *6 p.m., Mediterrano restaurant, 2900 S. State St. at Eisenhower (in the Concord Center). $12.95. For reservations, call 332–9700.*

★**CROP Walk Planning Meeting: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.** *August 12 & 27.* All invited to help plan the October 5 fund-raiser for hunger relief. *7 p.m., ICPJ office, Memorial Christian Church, 730 Tappan at Hill. Free. 663–1870.*

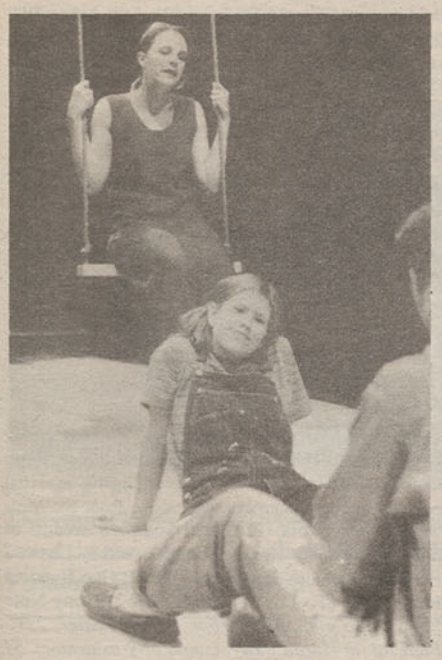
★**New Member Orientation: Parents Without Partners.** All divorced, widowed, separated, and never-married parents are invited to learn about the activities of this local PWP chapter. *7 p.m., location to be announced. Free. 971–0082.*

★**"Origami Fun!": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local origami expert Don Shall presents another of his popular family-oriented workshops introducing the ancient, elegant Japanese art of paper folding. Kids under 5 must be accompanied by an adult to assist them. Supplies provided. *7–8 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 327–8301.*

★**Informational Session: Junior League of Ann Arbor.** All interested women age 21 or older are invited to meet members and learn about the Junior League's activities and community projects. *7 p.m., Women's City Club, 1830 Washtenaw Ave. Free. 741–8752.*

★**"Getting into the College of Your Choice": Barnes & Noble.** Informational seminar on how to

theater



"Off the Map"
Trouble in New Mexico

Playwright Joan Ackermann likes small towns and out-of-the-way places, where the inhabitants tend to the gentle and quirky. *Off the Map*, which concludes its run at the Purple Rose Theater this month, is the story of the Groden family—mom, dad, and eleven-year-old daughter Bo—living the simple life in northern New Mexico in 1973. They have a bountiful garden, raise their own honeybees, and scavenge household appliances from the local dump. But all is not well in this idyll: as the play opens, Bo's father is inexplicably, catastrophically depressed, and mother and daughter struggle to carry on in the face of his imperturbable gloom.

Into this situation walks William, an IRS agent assigned to investigate the Grodens' failure to pay taxes for the past few years. He carries deep sorrows of his own. Ultimately, the encounter between two worlds works to heal people on both sides.

It's a nice theme—one that Ackermann explored more successfully in the 1994 *Stanton's Garage*—another tale of life-changing meetings off the beaten path. *Off the Map*, we quickly realize, is a memory play, narrated by a grown-up Bo (Suzi Regan), who watches her childhood played out on stage. It's the story of a precocious, imaginative child who has grown up to be (of course) a writer. Unfortunately, she's not a very good one. The narrator speaks in a tortured, ornate style that fairly reeks of adolescent attempts at sophistication: "A saint came among us, weary and sore of foot," is how she introduces the IRS character. At one point, she delivers an exquisitely overwrought bit of prose where the words "tears" and "estuary" are squeezed into the same sentence.

You know something's wrong when a superb actress like Purple Rose veteran Regan doesn't seem to know what to do with herself on stage. She spends much of her time gazing into the distance, dreamily murmuring her lines, or speaking with a catch in her throat. In speech and manner she seems as removed from her younger self (played with robust energy by Kate Peckham) as night is from day.

Off the Map is billed as a comedy, but the play packs clinical depression, unrequited love, and suicide into its slight frame. Any one of these subjects would be sufficient for an entire drama; none of them is done justice here. Why is Bo's father so despondent? How has this wonderfully loving family gotten itself into such a pickle? And how do they get themselves out of it in time for the abrupt happy ending? I wish I knew.

Intimate and personal, *Off the Map* is an overly labored labor of love. The fine cast gives it their best, and the evening passes entertainingly enough. But the actors' best efforts aren't enough to get this sweet but muddled tale back on course.

—Jennifer Dix

select and seek admission into the right college, presented by representatives from the *Princeton Review*. *7–8:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration requested. 677–6475.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Huron Valley Rose Society.** Speaker and topic to be announced. All welcome to join this group devoted to the care and cultivation of roses. Refreshments. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 429–9609.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Religious Coalition on Latin America.** All invited to discuss upcoming educational programs and a November protest trip to the U.S. Army's School of the Americas in Georgia. *7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free. 663–1870.*

★**Monthly Meeting: WAUG.** This month's program: Members open up a misbehaving PC and attempt to fix it. All invited to bring in their unwanted hardware and software to sell or trade. WAUG is a multi-platform computer user group. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Colonial Lanes meeting room, 1950 South Industrial. Free. 971–8576.*

★**"UFOs and Related Phenomena": Borders Books and Music.** Bill Murphy, a member of the Michigan chapter of the Mutual UFO Network gives a slide-illustrated talk about Michigan sightings and reflects on the 50th anniversary of the rumored UFO sightings in Roswell, New Mexico. *7:30 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**Motor City Beat: "Concerts in the Park" (Saline Area Chamber of Commerce/City of Saline).** R&B, blues, and jazz by this Detroit-area band. Food concessions. *7:30–9 p.m., Saline City Hall Park, 100 N. Harris, Saline. Free admission. 429–4494.*

"Celtic Festival": The Ark. *August 12–14.* Three nights of various brands of Celtic music. Tonight: **Moving Cloud,** an acoustic quartet widely regarded as the best traditional Celtic band in Ireland today. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $12.50 (August 12 & 14), $10 (August 13), & $27.50 (all three nights) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

FILMS

MTF. "Shall We Dance?" (Masayuki Suo, 1997). See 8 Friday. Mich., 7 & 9:30 p.m.

13 WEDNESDAY

★**"Nature Fun in the Afternoon": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs.** Hudson Mills naturalist Faye Stoner leads an outing to collect insects from the Huron River. Bring nets if you have them, wear old shoes and clothes, and be prepared to get wet. *1 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Rapids View picnic area, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. Free. (Park entry fee: $3 per vehicle.) 426–8211.*

★**"Introduction to the World Wide Web": Ann Arbor District Library.** See 6 Wednesday. *1:15 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall, 2713 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration required. 994–2339.*

★**Summer Film Series: U-M Turner Geriatric Services Learning in Retirement Program.** See 6 Wednesday. Today: ***Thunderheart*** (Michael Apted, 1992) stars Val Kilmer and Sam Shepard in a murder mystery thriller set on an Oglala Sioux reservation. 2 p.m.

★**Monthly Meeting: Michigan Chapter of Wild Ones.** All invited to help weed the native prairie exhibition garden in Furstenburg Park, followed at 7 p.m. by a walking tour of the park's prairie and savannah restoration projects. The program concludes at 8 p.m. with a short business meeting and a discussion of **"Plant Rescues."** Wild Ones is a national organization that promotes landscaping using native plant species. All invited. *6 p.m., Furstenburg Park, Fuller Rd. (across from Huron High School, just west of Huron Pkwy.). Free. For information, call Dave Borneman at 994–4834.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Magic Club.** All amateur and professional magicians invited to an evening of socializing and discussion of the magical arts. *7 p.m., Domino's Farms, Lobby G, 24 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Free. For information, call Harry Colestock at 663–5257.*

★**Informal Singing Group: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance.** Singers of all abilities invited to sing traditional songs. Bring a copy of *Rise Up Singing* if you have one. *7:30 p.m., location to be announced. Free. 665–7704.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Arrow Communication Association Amateur Radio Club.** All invited to discuss ham radio activities and issues. Tonight's topic to be announced. *7:30 p.m., Clague Middle School, room 136, 2616 Nixon Rd. Free to visitors ($20 annual dues for those who join). 665–6616.*

★**History Readers Group: Barnes & Noble.** EMU history professor Karin Gedge leads a discussion of Stuart Seely Sprague's *His Promised Land*, a biography of John P. Parker's life as a slave and conductor on the Underground Railroad. *7:30–8:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

"Celtic Festival": The Ark. See 12 Tuesday. Tonight: **The Drovers,** a Chicago-area band that mixes the hippie groove of the Grateful Dead with the bounce and harmonic textures of traditional Irish music. 8 p.m.

"Off the Map": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Totally Unrehearsed Theater": Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 6 Wednesday. 8:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Shall We Dance?" (Masayuki Suo, 1997). See 8 Friday. Mich., 7 & 9:30 p.m.

14 THURSDAY

★**The Blue Tops: U-M Hospitals Gifts of Art.** Blues and jazz by this local band. Held in the hospital's 1st-floor lobby if the weather is bad. *Noon, University Hospital Courtyard (behind the main hospital), 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

★**Racial and Economic Justice Task Force Meeting: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.** *August 14 & 28.* All invited to help plan welfare simulation workshops, antiracism work, and nonviolence training. *Noon, Memorial Christian Church, 730 Tappan at Hill. Free. 663–1870.*

"Derby Days": Ann Arbor Parks Department. Competitive fishing derby for kids ages 6–14. Also, tips on fishing techniques. Bait provided; bring your own fishing gear. Prizes. *6–8 p.m., Gallup Park canoe livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy). $5. Preregistration required. 662–9319.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Huron Land Use Alliance.** All invited to discuss ways to promote preservation of open space and the development of livable communities in Washtenaw County. *7–9 p.m., NEW Center, 1100 N. Main. Free. 769–5123.*

"Beer Tasting: Fruit Beers": Arbor Brewing Company. A chance to sample 18–24 local, imported, and microbrewed fruit beers from lambics (a spontanously fermented French beer made with cherries) to fermented ciders and a black cherry ale ABC is brewing for the occasion. Includes a program with a history of fruit beers and descriptions of each beer at the tasting. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a light appetizer buffet. *7–9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets $20 in advance and (if available) at the door. 213–1393.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Experimental Aircraft Association.** All who share an interest in aircraft and aviation techniques are welcome at the meetings of this local chapter of a national organization that sponsors the nation's largest air show every August in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Program to be announced. *7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Airport Terminal Bldg., 801 Airport Dr. (off S. State just south of I-94). Free. For information, call George Hunt at 475–1553.*

★**Organizational Meeting: Southeastern Michigan Patterns Discussion Group.** Quintessoft Engineering Inc. president Martin Nordberg gives a talk on design pattern technology in computer science. All computer professionals and other interested persons welcome to join this new group. *7:30 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

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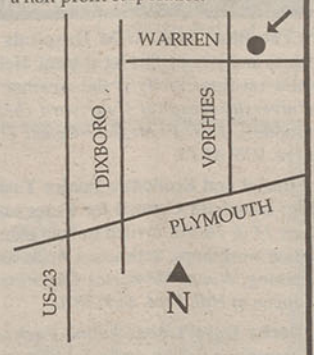

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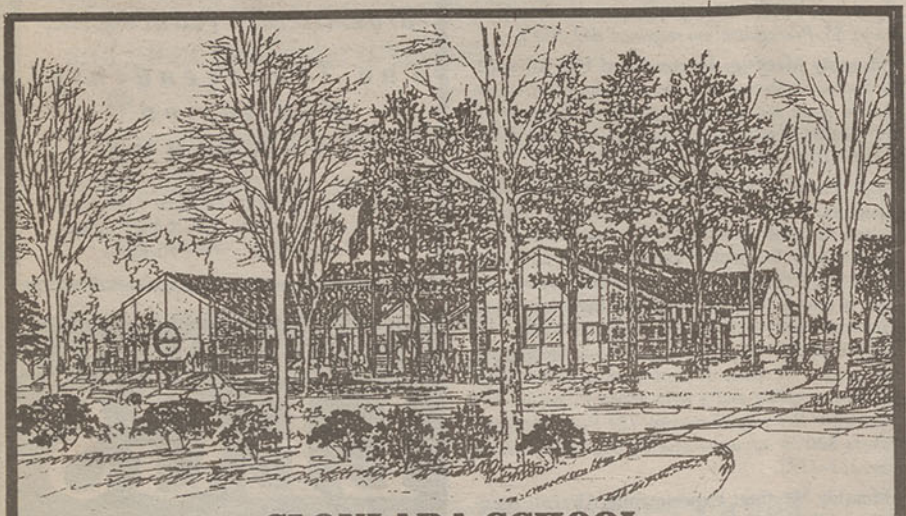

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EVENTS *continued*

Food Co-op Naturopathy Series. Talk by local naturopathic physician Suzie Zick. *7:30–9 p.m., Gypsy Cafe, 214 N. Fourth Ave. Free. Space limited; preregistration requested. 769–0095.*

★**"Introduction to the World Wide Web": Ann Arbor District Library.** See 6 Wednesday listing. *7:30–8:30 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4550.*

★**Romance Readers Group: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to discuss Julie Garwood's romance novel, *The Wedding. 7:30–8:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

★**"Songwriters Open Mike": Oz's Music.** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. The performances are videotaped and edited for a weekly show on cable channel 9, Fridays, 8:30–9:30 p.m. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1920 Packard. Free. 662–8283.*

★**Gazebo Concerts: Manchester Recreation Task Force.** See 7 Thursday. Tonight: Tex-Mex music by the band **La Sorpresa.** 7:30 p.m.

The Summer Symphony. Jon Krueger directs this polished community orchestra in a program that includes Dvorak's "Carnival Overture," the Rimsky-Korsakov "Le Coq d'Or" Suite, and Sibelius's Symphony No. 2. *Note:* The symphony repeats the program at the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival on August 17 (4 p.m., EMU Pease Auditorium). *8 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at S. Main. Freewill offering. 677–4831.*

"Celtic Festival": The Ark. See 12 Tuesday. Tonight: **The Black Brothers,** a vocal ensemble known for their richly textured close harmony arrangements of traditional and contemporary Irish songs. It is comprised of Shay, Michael, and Martin Black, three members of the famous Irish folk family that also includes singers Mary and Frances Black. 8 p.m.

"Off the Map": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Drop Dead!": Drake Enterprises/Mercury Theater. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Joel Zimmer: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. *August 14–16.* A stand-up comic from the U.P. who started his career on the Mainstreet stage, Zimmer is currently featured on Comedy Central's "Comics on Delivery." Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $7 (Thursday) & $10 (Friday & Saturday) in advance and at the door. Group rates and other discounts available. 996–9080.*

FILMS

MTF. "Shall We Dance?" (Masayuki Suo, 1997). See 8 Friday. Mich., 7 & 9:30 p.m.

15 FRIDAY

19th Annual Ypsilanti Heritage Festival: Ypsilanti Visitors and Convention Bureau. *August 15–17.* More than 300,000 people are expected to visit this weekend showcase of Ypsilanti's cultural heritage, winner of the Governor's Embassy of Tourism Award. The festival covers 16 acres in downtown Ypsilanti and attractions include a living history encampment, lumberjack shows, motorcycle high-wire acts, an exotic petting zoo, children's activities, game tents, tours of historic buildings, an arts and crafts fair with more than 200 exhibitors, and lots of ethnic and specialty foods. Today's special events include a **street rod show** (4 p.m.). Live jazz, blues, country, and gospel music can be heard afternoons and evenings in Riverside Park and Depot Town. Today's Riverside Park music schedule: bluegrass-flavored acoustic swing by **Five Guys Named Moe** (4:30–6 p.m.), to be announced (6:30–8 p.m.), rock 'n' roll oldies and classic country by **Billy Mack & the Kick Back Band** (8:30–10 p.m.), and bluesy R&B by **Lady Sunshine and the X Band** (10:30 p.m.–midnight). *Noon–midnight, Depot Town/Riverside Park, Ypsilanti. Free admission. Brochures with detailed schedules are available at the Ypsilanti Visitors and Convention Bureau, 301 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. For information, call the events hotline at 930–6300, or the Ypsilanti VCB at 483–4444.*

★**Organ Concert Series: American Guild of Organists/St. Luke's Episcopal Church.** See 1 Friday. Today's performer: **Mary Ann Balduff.** 12:15 p.m.

★**"Discovery Hike": Waterloo Natural History Association.** Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Lisa Gamero leads an early morning hike to explore the Waterloo Recreation Area woods, with an emphasis on late-summer wildflowers and insects. *3:30 p.m., Portage Lake campground, Chelsea. (For directions, see 1 Friday "Insect Safari" listing.) Free. $4 vehicle entry fee, unless you already have a state motor vehicle permit ($20 per year). 475–3170.*

★**"Advanced World Wide Web": Ann Arbor District Library.** Library staffers demonstrate and discuss Web sites, file formats, browsers, E-mail, and Usenet discussion groups. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall, 2713 Plymouth Rd. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 994–3180.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Viva Ventures.** All physically active seniors (age 50 and over) invited to plan hiking, biking, canoeing, camping, skiing, or white-water rafting excursions. *7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. For information, call Bud Tracy at 663–3077.*

★**Monthly Meeting: University Lowbrow Astronomers.** Speaker and topic to be announced. *7:30 p.m., 807 Dennison Hall, 501 East University. Free. 426–2363.*

"Wonderful Town": Young People's Theater. *August 15 & 16.* This local youth theater presents Betty Comden and Adolph Green's engaging musical comedy about two sisters who move from the Midwest to New York City to pursue their dreams of fame and fortune. The memorable score by Leonard Bernstein includes the songs "Ohio," "One Hundred Easy Ways (To Lose a Man)," and "Wrong Note Rag." *7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Civic Theater, 2275 Platt Rd. at Huron Pkwy. (south of Washtenaw). $4 in advance or at the door. 996–3888, 971–AACT.*

★**Brian Schorn: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This EMU graphic design teacher, a prize winning poet, reads from his recently published first collection, *Strabismus.* His work blends elements of surrealism and "language" poetry to create a powerful sense of dislocation. Following the reading, Schorn signs copies of his books. Refreshments. *8 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

"Off the Map": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Drop Dead!": Drake Enterprises/Mercury Theater. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Joel Zimmer: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 14 Thursday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

★**"Full Moon Campfire": Waterloo Natural History Association.** Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Lisa Gamero presents a program of Native American stories and traditional folk music around a campfire. *9 p.m., Waterloo Riding Stables, 12891 Trist Road, Grass Lake. (Take I-94 west to exit 150, go north on Mt. Hope Rd., and turn right onto Trist.) Free. 475–3170.*

Women's Ice Hockey Open Skate Session. *August 15 & 24.* All women interested in joining one of the local independent ice hockey teams this fall are invited to this practice session. All abilities welcome; bring your own equipment. *9 p.m. (August 15) & 7 p.m. (August 24), Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. (off Scio Church Rd. behind the Oak Valley shopping center). $8 (both sessions, $15). For information, call Patty Schoff at (313) 425–7749.*

★**"Moonlight on the Huron Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Enjoy the full moon by riding 1–3 8-mile loops along the Gallup Park pathway. *10 p.m., meet at the east end of the Mitchell Field parking lot, Fuller Rd. Free. 973–9225 (tonight's ride), 913–9851 (general information).*

Friday Dance Jam: People Dancing Studio. See 1 Friday. 10 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Shall We Dance?" (Masayuki Suo, 1997). See 8 Friday. Mich., 7 & 9:30 p.m.

16 SATURDAY

19th Annual Ypsilanti Heritage Festival: Ypsilanti Visitors and Convention Bureau. See 15 Friday. Today's highlights include the annual **Heritage Festival Parade** (10 a.m.). Also, an **antique bottle show** (10 a.m.–8 p.m.), a **Michigan wine tasting** (5–9 p.m.), a **hot-air balloon launch** (6:30 p.m.), and dancing to big band music by the **II-V-I Orchestra** (6–8 p.m.). Today's Riverside Park music schedule: to be announced (1–2 p.m.), soul-flavored R&B, blues, and 70s funk by the **Steve Somers Band** (2:30–4 p.m.), blues and blues-rock by the **Martindales** (4:30–6 p.m.), to be announced (6:30–8 p.m.), horn-driven R&B, boogie-rock, blues, and jazz by the **Bugs Beddow Band** (8:30–10 p.m.), and rocking blues and R&B by **Honeyboy** (10:30 p.m.–midnight). 9 a.m.–midnight.

★**"Kids Connect!": Ann Arbor District Library.** AADL staff explain the basics of the Internet, World Wide Web, and the Netscape browser. Participants also explore the library's Youth Page. Open to all kids who have an AADL library card. *9 a.m., Ann*

The remarkable turn-of-the-century Hutchinson House is one of the buildings featured on the annual Ypsilanti Historic Homes Tour, Sun., Aug. 17, as part of the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival.

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★**Monthly Meeting: MacTechnics.** All Macintosh computer users invited to join this networking organization. Speaker and topic to be announced. Also, small groups representing more than a dozen special interests meet concurrently to share tips and information. Beginners welcome. Coffee and socializing. *9 a.m.–noon, Electrical Engineering/Computer Science Bldg., Beal Ave. (off Bonisteel Blvd.), North Campus. Free. 971–8743.*

★**Monthly Outreach Meeting: Ann Arbor Aglow.** All women invited to join this international organization devoted to meeting women's spiritual needs. Meetings include coffee, socializing, and a brief time of praise and worship. No child care available. *9:15 a.m., Domino's Farms Ulrich Room, Lobby E, 24 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Free. For information, call Jeannie at 761–1893.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor City Committee of the Republican Party.** Speaker and topic to be announced. All invited. *9:30 a.m., Washtenaw County Republican Party Headquarters, Packard Office Center, 3830 Packard Rd. (behind 3800 Packard Rd., just east of US-23). Free. 665–6162.*

"Spinners Flock": Domino's Petting Farm. *August 16 & 17.* Members of this local spinning and weaving guild are on hand throughout the day to demonstrate their craft. Many handmade items are for sale. *10:30 a.m.–4 p.m., Domino's Farms, 30 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Admission $2.50 (children 2 & under, free). 930–5032.*

★**Robo Rally Demonstration: The Underworld.** All invited to learn how to play this entertaining board game in which eager but dim-witted robots race across a deadly factory floor. *1:30 p.m,, The Underworld, 1202 South University. Free. 998–0547.*

★**"Nature Art": Waterloo Natural History Association.** Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Lisa Gamero leads a hike to look for natural materials to use in making a bookmark. *2 p.m., Gerald E. Eddy Geology Center, Bush Rd., Chelsea. (For directions, see 9 Saturday "Wildlife Folklore" listing.) Free. $4 vehicle entry fee, unless you already have a state motor vehicle permit ($20 per year). 475–3170.*

"Wonderful Town": Young People's Theater. See 15 Friday. 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Cobblestone Farm Country Dancers. Live music by Paul Winder & Friends, with popular local caller Robin Warner. All dances taught; beginners welcome. No partner necessary. Also, all string band musicians invited to bring their instruments (and Ruffwater fake books) to a free jam session (4–6 p.m.). *8–11:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $6. 662–3371.*

"Off the Map": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Drop Dead!": Drake Enterprises/Mercury Theater. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Joel Zimmer: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 14 Thursday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Shall We Dance?" (Masayuki Suo, 1997). See 8 Friday. Mich., 4:30, 7, & 9:30 p.m.

17 SUNDAY

Ann Arbor Antiques Market. This nationally important show, which started modestly in 1969 at the Farmers' Market, now features more than 300 dealers in antiques and collectibles. It's the nation's largest regularly scheduled monthly antiques show, and quite possibly the best. No reproductions are allowed; experts hired by founder-manager Margaret Brusher check every booth, and the authenticity of everything is guaranteed to be what the dealer's receipt says it is. The market is also an important source for dealers nationwide. Deliveries available; food for sale. *6 a.m.–4 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $5 (children under 12 accompanied by an adult, free). Free parking. 662–9453 (before the show), 429–9954 (day of show).*

17th Annual Great Train Race: Ypsilanti Depot Town Association/Ann Arbor Track Club. 5-km open run, race walk, or fitness walk, and a 10-km open run on country roads, beginning and ending at the historic train station in Ypsilanti's Depot Town. Awards to the top overall male and female finishers, and to the top 3 finishers in every age division. Post-race refreshments. In conjunction with the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival (see 15 Friday). *8 a.m., Ypsilanti Farmers' Market (Depot Town), Ypsilanti. Fitness walk entry fee: $5. Race entry fees: $12 (age 12 & under, $8) by August 9; $15 (12 & under, $10) August 10–12; $20 (12 & under, $15) day of race. Entry forms available at local sports stores. For information, call 663–9740.*

★**"German Restaurant Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Fast/moderate-paced 80-mile ride to Stockbridge for lunch at a German restaurant. *9 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 994–5908 (today's ride), 913–9851 (general information).*

★**"Mountain Biking on County Roads": Sierra Club.** A 15–20-mile bike ride at an easy pace. Participants decide on the route. Bring a sack lunch. *10 a.m., meet in front of the Fox Village Theater, Maple Village Shopping Center. Free. 572–7930.*

★**"Crossing the Marsh": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** Intrepid WCPARC naturalist Matt Heumann leads a wading tour through Cordgrass Marsh at Independence Lake. Expect waist-deep water in places; participants must be at least 4 feet tall. *10 a.m., Independence Lake County Park. Vehicle entry fee $3. 971–6337.*

19th Annual Ypsilanti Heritage Festival: Ypsilanti Visitors and Convention Bureau. See 15 Friday. Today's special events include the **Great Train Race** (see listing above) and the **Historic Home Tour** (see listing below). Also, a **jazz brunch** (11 a.m.), a **polo match** (2 p.m.), and the popular **Rubber Ducky Race** (4:30 p.m.), where a fleet of rubber ducks is launched on the Huron River. Today's Riverside Park music schedule: to be announced (1:30–3 p.m.) and soulful swing, New Orleans–style funk, and boogie-woogie blues by **Al Hill and the Love Butlers** (3:30–5 p.m.). 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

"Spinners Flock": Domino's Petting Farm. See

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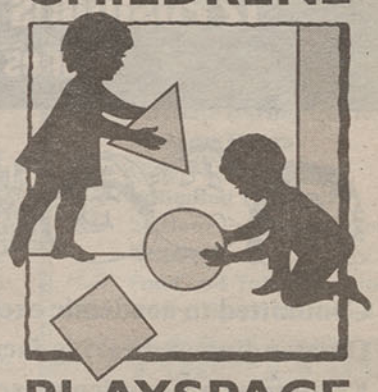

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EVENTS *continued*

16 Saturday. 10:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

Ann Arbor Artisan Market. See 3 Sunday. 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

20th Annual Ypsilanti Historic Homes Tour: Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation. A self-guided walking tour of six 19th- and early-20th-century homes in Ypsilanti, including the landmark 33-room **Hutchinson House,** built in 1902 by the founder of the S & H Green Stamp business. The six homes are examples of colonial, Tudor, and Greek revival styles, as well as Italianate and Queen Anne. Also, a **slide show** on historic Ypsilanti buildings, before and after restoration, is shown throughout the afternoon at the nearby Demonstration Preschool (in the High Scope Foundation bldg., 600 N. River St.). In conjunction with the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival (see 15 Friday listing). *Noon–5 p.m. Tickets and maps $7 (seniors, $6; children under 12, $4), available through August 14 at Materials Unlimited, Norton Durant Florists, John Leidy shops, Remington's by Design, and the Dixboro General Store. During the Heritage Festival, tickets $8 (seniors, $7; children, $5), available at Riverside Park and the Ypsilanti Historical Museum. 482–8666.*

"Bluegrass and Old-Time Country Music Jam Session": Ypsilanti Farmers' Market. All acoustic musicians invited to bring their instruments to this monthly jam session. Proceeds to benefit the restoration of the Farmers' Market Freight House. *1:30–5 p.m., Farmers' Market Freight House, E. Cross at River St., Depot Town, Ypsilanti. $2 donation. 930–2680.*

★**"Dog Days of Summer": Friends of the Nichols Arboretum.** 90-minute docent-led tour over hilly terrain. Dogs on leashes welcome. Wear sturdy footwear. *2 p.m. Meet at the Washington Hts. (Peony Garden) entrance to the Arb. Free. 763–6632.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.** A speaker to be announced, followed by small discussion groups. *2–5 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 1917 Washtenaw at Berkshire. Free. 741–0659.*

"Off the Map": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Drop Dead!": Drake Enterprises/Mercury Theater. See 7 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**Monthly Book Discussion: Stilyagi Air Corps.** All are welcome to join a discussion of a science-fiction book to be announced. *5 p.m., Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. For information, call Chad at (313) 390–2369.*

★**"Concerts in the Park Featuring Dinner": Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce.** See 3 Sunday. Tonight's show features performances by **Chelsea Fair queen candidates** (5:30–5:40 p.m.) family musical entertainment by **Chautauqua Express** (5:40–6:20 p.m.), and rock 'n' roll oldies by the Lansing-based **Seacruisers** (6:20–7:30 p.m.). Also, **Loopy the Clown** does face painting and makes balloon animals (5:30–7:30 p.m.). Food for sale from Chelsea Cottage Inn Pizza and other vendors beginning at 4:30 p.m. *5:30–8:30 p.m., Pierce Park, M-52 (just north of Old US-12), Chelsea. Free. 475–1145.*

FILMS

MTF. "Shall We Dance?" (Masayuki Suo, 1997). See 8 Friday. Mich., 4:30, 7, & 9:30 p.m.

18 MONDAY

★**"Hatha Yoga for Relaxation."** Local chiropractor Ann Petrou offers a free introduction to yoga as a way to ease rheumatism. Classes continue for six weeks. Wear comfortable clothing. *7–8:15 p.m., Parkway Center, 2345 S. Huron Pkwy. First class free ($50 for the series). 995–5414.*

★**"Postwar Berlin": Ann Arbor Stamp Club Monthly Meeting.** Slide show on Berlin's postal history following World War II, given by two club members who belong to the Germany Philatelic Society. The presentation reflects the growing tensions between East and West Germany. Also, an auction of inexpensive U.S. and foreign stamps. *7:30 p.m., Salvation Army, 100 Arbana. Free. 662–6566.*

FILMS

MTF. "Shall We Dance?" (Masayuki Suo, 1997). See 8 Friday. Mich., 7 & 9:30 p.m.

19 TUESDAY

★**Monthly Open Meeting: Community Partnership.** All invited to join this task force dedicated to discouraging the use and abuse of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco among young people in Washtenaw County. Today's program to be announced. *8:30–10 a.m., Washtenaw County Human Services Bldg., 555*

The German Park picnic

Polka!

To get to German Park, drive north out of town on Pontiac Trail, passing old barns, centennial farms, horses, and plenty of lush open land. Go about seven miles, then turn left at the sign.

To get to the German Park picnic, follow the same directions, but leave your Ann Arbor chic at home. Like it or not, you're about to do the polka.

The German Park Recreational Club organizes three public picnics each year. We decided to explore one last August, at the end of a particularly lovely summer. Field followed field, and we were just starting to think we had the wrong directions, when we came upon yet another field, this one filled with thousands of cars. We parked, and then, following the lure of distant music, made our way to the gate.

German Park looks like a summer camp from the 1940s, with rough-hewn, utilitarian structures sporting mysterious yellow signs reading "Moehrle Gebäude," "Duckek Halle," and such. The crowds were thick and merry—and what a cross-section they were. Throngs of university students mingled with smiling old ladies and chubby little boys wearing lederhosen. Beer was being sold from virtually every booth. I don't know much about beer, but I thought this stuff was pretty good, and the crowds seemed to agree. Some people had cups, but many had milk jugs full of frothy ale. We made our way to the music.

Clearly the heart of the German Park picnic (besides the beer) is the music and dancing. After an interesting demonstration of German folk dances (much knee-slapping, butt-kicking, and lederhosen), we charged the dance floor. The Continentals—Tom, Mark, Franz, and Arlene—were the band of the night, and they ruled in every way. This is a polka band that knows the value of versatility. I'll never forget Arlene, clad in her waitress-style, pseudo-Germanic pastel dress, wrapping her considerable chords around "I Will Always Love You," while kids, grandparents, and teenagers slow-danced with meaning. Then, of course, came the Macarena (remember the Macarena?), which packed the dance floor at least three times during the course of the night.

But the Continentals never let us completely forget that they are a polka band. I had expected to encounter some pretty serious polka mavens at the German Park picnic, but the experience was more akin to finding oneself in the middle of a demolition derby. Amidst all of these hurtling Germans, the best polka-ers we saw were a middle-aged Asian couple who took it very seriously. By night's end, we were bruised but exhilarated.

Let us not forget the food. Between sets of polka, the Macarena, the Locomotion, and plenty of old time rock 'n' roll—Continentals-style—we feasted on knackwurst, bratwurst, spaetzle, and sauerkraut (and more beer).

I fancy myself a cultured person. I go to concerts, talk about literary critical theory, travel, and like to eat at Palio. But for all of my highfalutin' ways, the German Park picnic last August was the most fun I had all summer.

The season's final German Park picnic is Saturday, August 30.

—Kate Conner-Ruben

Towner, Ypsilanti. Free. 484–6620.

★"Mini-Beast Safari": Waterloo Natural History Association. Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Lisa Gamero leads a hike through the woods to look for and capture some insects and spiders. Wear clothes for crawling around in the bushes and bring a jar. *10 a.m., Portage Lake campground, Chelsea. (For directions, see 1 Friday "Insect Safari" listing.) Free. $4 vehicle entry fee, unless you already have a state motor vehicle permit ($20 per year). 475–3170.*

★Investment Seminar: Barnes & Noble. Horizons Planning Corporation investment counselor Nicholas Hiemstra discusses the benefits of equities and investments. *7–8 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

★"Herb & Fruit Vinegar Making": People's Food Co-op. Demonstration by PFC manager Kevin Sharp. *7–8:30 p.m., People's Food Co-op, 216 N. Fourth Ave. Free. Preregistration requested. 769–0095.*

★"The Thinking Person's Guide to Sobriety": Barnes & Noble. Bert Pluymen, an attorney and novelist from Texas, discusses and signs copies of his recently published book, a richly anecdotal, often very funny book that has won praise from everyone from psychologist John Bradshaw to former Texas governor Ann Richards. *7–8 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

★Town Hall Task Force on Substance Abuse: Community Action on Substance Abuse. All invited to join efforts to find ways to reduce substance abuse. *7:30 p.m., Huron High School principal's conference room, 2727 Fuller Rd. Free. 973–7892.*

★"Trekking the Annapurna Circuit in Nepal": Sierra Club Monthly Meeting. Slide-illustrated lecture by club member Laura Rosenthal. Followed by refreshments and socializing. All welcome. *7:30 p.m., Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 665–7345.*

★African-American Book Discussion Group: Packard Community Clinic. All invited to discuss Jamaica Kincaid's acclaimed novel *Autobiography of My Mother*, a heart-wrenching tale of the interplay of power and powerlessness in the life of a 70-year-old West Indian woman. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Packard Community Clinic, 3174 Packard Rd. Free. 913–1344.*

★Carmen Bugan: Borders Books and Music. This local poet gives a farewell reading before she departs for the Poets' House in Ireland to pursue an M.F.A. Bugan's poems are passionate and political, often dealing with her family's sufferings in their native Romania. She is accompanied tonight by a cellist, drummer, and other musicians to be announced. *7:30 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★Jill Battson: Shaman Drum Bookshop. An English native who lives in Toronto, where she is known as Toronto's "high priestess of the spoken word," Battson reads from her recently published first full-length collection, *Hard Candy*. "We're stylistically different," says Battson of the Canadian poetry scene. "We produce poets who are more thoughtful and we're very much more reserved." Following the reading, Battson signs copies of her books. Refreshments. *8 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

FILMS

MTF. "Shall We Dance?" (Masayuki Suo, 1997). See 8 Friday. Mich., 7 & 9:30 p.m.

20 WEDNESDAY

★"Library On-Line Catalog": Ann Arbor District Library. Library staffers offer an introductory workshop on how to use the library's electronic catalog, which can be accessed in the library or remotely, through the library Web site (http://www.annarbor.lib.mi.us). Aimed especially at people who mourn the loss of the library's card catalog and feel uncomfortable with on-line resources. *8:30–10 a.m., Ann Arbor District Library West Branch, Westgate Shopping Center, 2505 Jackson Rd. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 994–1674.*

★Summer Film Series: U-M Turner Geriatric Services Learning in Retirement Program. See 6 Wednesday. Today: ***A Thousand Clowns*** (Fred Coe, 1965) stars Jason Robards and Barbara Harris in a superb adaptation of Herb Gardner's hit Broadway comedy. 2 p.m.

★"String Figures & Games": People's Food Co-op. Local string figure artists Marcia Gaynor and Michele Gage show kids how to make a cat's cradle and other string figures. Kids under age 8 must be accompanied by an adult. *6:30–8:30 p.m., People's Food Co-op, 216 N. Fourth Ave. Free. Preregistration requested. 769–0095.*

★"Volunteer Stewardship Workday": Ann Arbor Parks Department. See 6 Wednesday. Today: a trip to **Fritz Park** to help remove nonnative plants from the wooded areas of the park. Dress for the outdoor work. *6:30–8:30 p.m., Fritz Park, meet at the entrance on Pauline Blvd. (halfway between Main and Stadium). Free. 996–3266.*

"Off the Map": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Totally Unrehearsed Theater": Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 6 Wednesday. 8:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Shall We Dance?" (Masayuki Suo, 1997). See 8 Friday. Mich., 7 & 9:30 p.m.

21 THURSDAY

★Drum Talk: U-M Hospitals Gifts of Art. Afro-Caribbean-style drumming and song by this local trio. Held in the hospital's 1st-floor lobby if the weather is bad. *Noon, University Hospital Courtyard (behind the main hospital), 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

Monthly Meeting: New Enterprise Forum. A chance for entrepreneurs, investors, and business service providers to explore common interests. Each meeting features a guest speaker discussing an entrepreneurial issue, showcase presentations by emerging companies, and an open forum in which entrepreneurs can introduce themselves and solicit help for their business needs. Refreshments. All invited. *5 p.m. (registration), 5:30 p.m. (meeting), Holiday Inn North, 3600 Plymouth Rd. $15 (members, free). 665–4434.*

★"Healthy Choices Grocery Shopping Tour": Whole Foods Market. A tour of this natural-foods store, with food samples, literature, recipes, and coupons for participants. *7 p.m., Whole Foods Market, Lamp Post Plaza, 2398 E. Stadium. Free, but reservations required. 971–3366.*

★Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Society for Origami. All invited (children and adults) to learn about and try their hand at origami, the ancient, elegant Japanese art of paper folding. Taught by local paper-folding expert Don Shall. *7–9:30 p.m., Slauson Middle School, 1019 W. Washington at Eighth St. Free. 662–3394.*

★General Meeting: Ann Arbor Democratic Party. Discussion topic to be announced. All invited. *7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main. Free. 663–3921.*

★"Bluegrass Jam Session": Oz's Music. All bluegrass musicians invited. Hosted by Memphis Express banjoist Lynn Hall. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1920 Packard. Free. 662–8283.*

"Off the Map": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Drop Dead!": Drake Enterprises/Mercury Theater. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Elliot Branch: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. *August 21–23.* A Detroit monologuist who has been heralded as a "comic to watch" by *Detroit Monthly*, Branch likes to talk about broken-down cars, cars with fancy options, beer, and beer commercials. Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $7 (Thursday) & $10 (Friday & Saturday) in advance and at the door. Group rates and other discounts available. 996–9080.*

FILMS

MTF. "Shall We Dance?" (Masayuki Suo, 1997).

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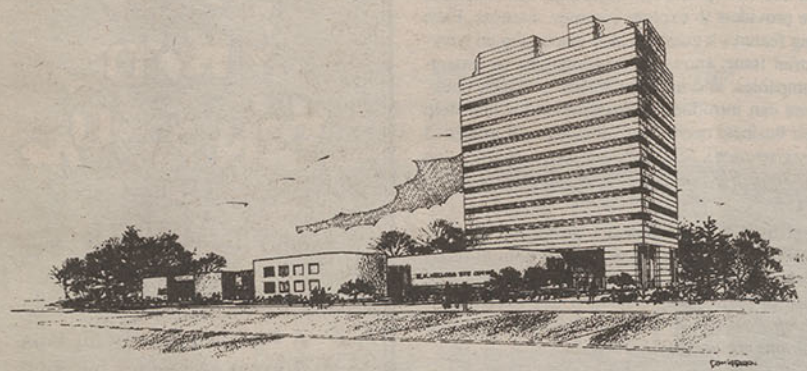
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See 8 Friday. Mich., 7 & 9:30 p.m.

22 FRIDAY

★**"Nature Bookmarks": Waterloo Natural History Association.** Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Lisa Gamero shows how to make bookmarks using insect stamps or replica animal footprints. *10 a.m., Portage Lake campground, Chelsea. (For directions, see 1 Friday "Insect Safari" listing.) Free. $4 vehicle entry fee, unless you already have a state motor vehicle permit ($20 per year). 475–3170.*

BBQ Fund-raiser: Bethel Quality of Life Resource Center. Unbelievably yummy homemade barbecued rib or chicken dinners, with baked beans, string beans, potato salad, bread, and cake. Proceeds to help buy back-to-school clothes for needy kids in Washtenaw County. *11 a.m. until sold out, Bethel A.M.E. Church all-purpose room, 900 John Woods Dr. (off Pontiac Trail). $7 (rib dinner), $6 (chicken dinner) available for sit-down or takeout (free delivery on multiple orders). Advance orders requested. 665–1221.*

Country Peddler Show: American Memories, Inc. *August 22–24.* Sale of a wide variety of folk art reproductions and country crafts. *4–9 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Admission $3 (children age 2–12, $2). (616) 423–8367.*

★**9th Annual Maple Hill Park Gospel Sing.** *August 22–24.* Several hundred visitors are expected at this 3-day celebration of traditional and contemporary gospel music featuring soloists and choirs from throughout the area. Food concessions. No alcohol allowed. *6–11 p.m. or later, Maple Hill Park, corner of Seven Mile and Nollar Rd. (about 7 miles north of Ann Arbor). Free. Overnight camping available ($10). 662–0983.*

Euchre Party: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove. All invited to join an evening of cards. Snacks provided; prizes to the top three teams. *7 p.m., 1325 Rosewood. $6. To register, call 487–4931.*

★**"Homepage Resources": Ann Arbor District Library.** Library staffers demonstrate Internet resources for developing your own Web homepage. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library West Branch, Westgate Shopping Center, 2505 Jackson Rd. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 994–1674.*

"Off the Map": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Drop Dead!": Drake Enterprises/Mercury Theater. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Shame on Me": What Will the Neighbors Think? Productions. *August 22 & 29.* Local comic and self-described "spoken word yahoo" **Sandy Lawson** stars in her irreverent one-woman theatrical assault on the art of keeping secrets. Britta Hudson directs. *8:30 p.m., the Mudd House, 317 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Donation. 482–8020.*

Elliot Branch: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 21 Thursday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "When the Cat's Away" (Cedric Klapisch, 1996). *August 22–31.* Romantic comedy about a lonely young woman's search for her missing cat. French, subtitles. Mich., 7 & 9 p.m.

23 SATURDAY

Country Peddler Show: American Memories, Inc. See 22 Friday. 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

"Herb Fest '97": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Area experts offer a daylong series of workshops on growing, harvesting, and using herbs for food, decoration, and aromatherapy. Includes lunch and a tour of the MBG herb knot garden. *9:30 a.m.–3 p.m., Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. $15 (MBG members, $12.50) 998–7061.*

★**Auditions: University Musical Society Choral Union.** *August 23, 25, and Sepember 6 & 7.* Singers are invited to try out for the UMS Choral Union, a 200-voice community chorus directed by Thomas Sheets. During the 1997–1998 season, the group will perform Handel's "Messiah," Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess," Mendelssohn's "Elijah," and Elgar's "The Dream of Gerontius." *10 a.m.–3 p.m. (today & 6–10 p.m. (August 25), U-M Modern Language Bldg., Auditorium 4, 812 E. Washington St. at Thayer. Free. For an appointment, call 763–8997.*

1st Annual Bob Schapler Memorial "It's For the Kids" Celebrity Golf Outing: Ann Arbor Lodge of Elks No. 325. This fund-raiser offers a chance to play golf with former Red Wings stars **Gordie Howe, Joe Kocur, Bill Gadsby,** and other hockey greats. Five-person scramble format, with one celebrity per team. Event includes door prizes, an auction of various goods and services, and dinner. Proceeds benefit handicapped and underprivileged children. Honors the memory of the late Elks brother Bob Schapler. *Noon (check-in), 1:30 p.m. (shotgun start), Reddeman Farms Golf Club, Chelsea. $100 (dinner only, $25). To register, call 429–3146 or 668–6663.*

★**Warhammer 40K Tournament: The Underworld.** All invited to play this tactical miniatures board game. *Noon, The Underworld, 1202 South University. Free. 998–0547.*

"Is This Love?: 1997 Bob Marley Festival Tour": Sivad Productions. *August 23 & 24.* The only Michigan stop of this 13-city tour of this festival that features performances by 20 reggae and worldbeat bands from around the U.S., the Caribbean, and Africa, including Ypsilanti's **Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band.** Also, ethnic foods, arts & crafts, and a play area for kids with rides and games. Proceeds to benefit Food Gatherers, the MLK Chess & Game Group, and the Bob Marley Foundation. *Noon–11 p.m., Frog Island Field, Depot Town, Ypsilanti. Tickets $10 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets, $15 (before 4 p.m., $5 cash or nonperishable food donation to Food Gatherers) at the gate. For information, call 572–0008. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.*

9th Annual Maple Hill Park Gospel Sing. See 22 Friday. 1–11 p.m.

★**"Insect Safari": Waterloo Natural History Association.** Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Lisa Gamero leads a hike through the woods to look for and capture some insects. Wear clothes for crawling around in the bushes and bring a jar. *2 p.m., Gerald E. Eddy Geology Center, Bush Rd., Chelsea. (For directions, see 9 Saturday "Wildlife Folklore" listing.) Free. $4 vehicle entry fee, unless you already have a state motor vehicle permit ($20 per year). 475–3170.*

★**"Reveling on the River": Ann Arbor Parks Department.** See 9 Saturday. Tonight's entertainment: the Community High School Jazz Collective. 6:30–7:30 p.m.

"Off the Map": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Drop Dead!": Drake Enterprises/Mercury Theater. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Elliot Branch: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 21 Thursday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Brassed Off" (Mark Herman, 1996). *August 23 & 24.* A brass band unites the villagers in a small English coal-mining town undergoing hard economic times. Mich., 4:30 p.m. **MTF. "When the Cat's Away"** (Cedric Klapisch, 1996). See 22 Friday. Mich., 7 & 9 p.m.

24 SUNDAY

★**"Mary Van Camp Memorial Jackson All-Star Dairy Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Fast/moderate-paced 100-mile ride over scenic roads to Jackson to visit one of the most popular ice cream parlors in southeastern Michigan. Also, at 10 a.m., a 40-mile ride to the same destination leaves from the Grass Lake Depot on Michigan Ave. *9 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 663–5060 (100-mile ride), 973–0225 (40-mile ride), 913–9851 (general information).*

★**"Exploring Pierce Lake": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC's entertaining and informative Matt Heumann leads the inaugural shoreline tour of this newest addition to the county parks system. Long pants and sneakers recommended. *10 a.m., Pierce Lake, 1175 S. Main, Chelsea (between Old US-12 and I-94). Free. 971–6337.*

★**Trail Walk: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens Trail Walk.** Docents lead a trail walk to examine late-summer tree growth and wildflowers in the Matthaei's woodlands. Dress for the weather; sturdy waterproof footwear recommended. *10 a.m., Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 998–7061.*

9th Annual Maple Hill Park Gospel Sing. See 22 Friday. 10:30 a.m.–6 p.m.

Ann Arbor Artisan Market. See 3 Sunday. Today: Kate Keever demonstrates **quilting** and Denise DeGarmo shows how to make a **garden pet rock.** 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Country Peddler Show: American Memories, Inc. See 22 Friday. 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

★**"Park Lyndon to Eddy Geology Center Hike": Sierra Club.** An approximately 6-mile-long hike

over rolling glacial terrain in the Waterloo Recreation Area. *Noon, meet at Ann Arbor City Hall parking lot. Free. 429–0671.*

"Is This Love?: 1997 Bob Marley Festival Tour": Sivad Productions. See 23 Saturday. Noon–11 p.m.

★**"Wetland Wildflowers at Dexter-Huron": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs.** Hudson Mills naturalist Faye Stoner leads a short hike to identify several species of wildflowers and other vegetation that grow in and around a small wetland area in Dexter-Huron Metropark. The ground may be soggy: wear appropriate shoes or boots. *1 p.m., Dexter-Huron Metropark parking lot (near the tollbooth), Huron River Dr. (about 1/2 mile east of Mast Rd. in Dexter). Free. (Park entry fee: $3 per vehicle.) Preregistration requested. 426–8211.*

★**Summer Open House: Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor.** A chance to tour the Rudolf Steiner School (on Newport Road) and the new Rudolf Steiner High School (on Packard) and meet faculty and parents of children enrolled in these alternative schools for kindergarten through 10th grade. Refreshments. *2 p.m., Rudolf Steiner School, 2775 Newport Rd., and Rudolf Steiner High School, 2309 Packard Rd. Free. 995–4141.*

"Drop Dead!": Drake Enterprises/Mercury Theater. See 7 Thursday. 2 p.m.

Annual Corn Roast and Membership Drive: Ann Arbor Ski Club. Old members and newcomers both are welcome at this social event that kicks off the Ski Club's season of meetings and outings. (The group sponsors an "Ididaride" bike tour through Adrian and the Irish Hills August 1–3. Check local sports stores for information or call 971–2748.) Corn, beverages, and grills provided—bring your own food to grill if you like. Volleyball, music, and dancing. Persons under 21 must be accompanied by an adult. *3–8 p.m., Knights of Columbus picnic grounds, 3991 Dexter Rd. Admission $5 (children 12 & under, $3). 761–3419.*

★**Japanese Tea Ceremony: U-M Museum of Art.** Tea ceremony practitioners Yoko Watanabe, Takao Tsuchida, and Althea Capul enact a traditional Japanese tea ceremony (about 25 minutes) in the museum's beautiful teahouse, followed by a short discussion on the ritual's symbolism. This month's ceremony follows the style of the Ura Senke school. *3 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764–0395.*

★**"All Saints: Daily Reflections on Saints, Prophets, and Witnesses for Our Time": Shaman Drum Bookshop Publication Party.** Orbis Books editor-in-chief Roberts Ellsberg (the son of Daniel Ellsberg of Pentagon Papers fame) is on hand to sign copies of his recently published collection of 365 short biographies of both traditional saints and such spiritual authorities as William Blake, Thomas Merton, and Flannery O'Connor. Refreshments. *4–6 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

FILMS

MTF. "When the Cat's Away" (Cedric Klapisch, 1996). See 22 Friday. Mich., 5 & 7 p.m. **"Brassed Off"** (Mark Herman, 1996). See 23 Saturday. Mich., 9 p.m.

25 MONDAY

★**Ann Arbor-Juigalpa Sister City Committee: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.** All welcome to help plan humanitarian projects to aid Ann Arbor's sister city in Nicaragua. *7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free. 663–1870.*

FILMS

MTF. "When the Cat's Away" (Cedric Klapisch, 1996). See 22 Friday. Mich., 7 & 9 p.m.

26 TUESDAY

"Searching the World Wide Web": Ann Arbor District Library. A hands-on introduction to Web search and metasearch engines and subject directories. *9:30 a.m. , Ann Arbor District Library training center (3rd floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. $5. Preregistration required. 327–4550..*

FILMS

MTF. "When the Cat's Away" (Cedric Klapisch, 1996). See 22 Friday. Mich., 7 & 9 p.m.

27 WEDNESDAY

"Staying Positive Throughout Life's Changes: Well-Being, Stress & Sexuality": Chelsea Community Hospital Women's Health Center. Lunch and a talk by Carol Landau, a psychiatry and human behavior professor at Brown University School of Medicine and a frequent contributor to the *McCall's* magazine column "The Doctors Are In." *11:30*

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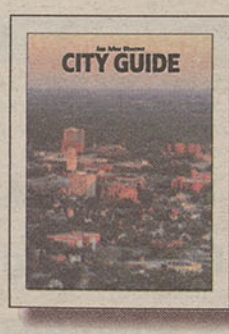

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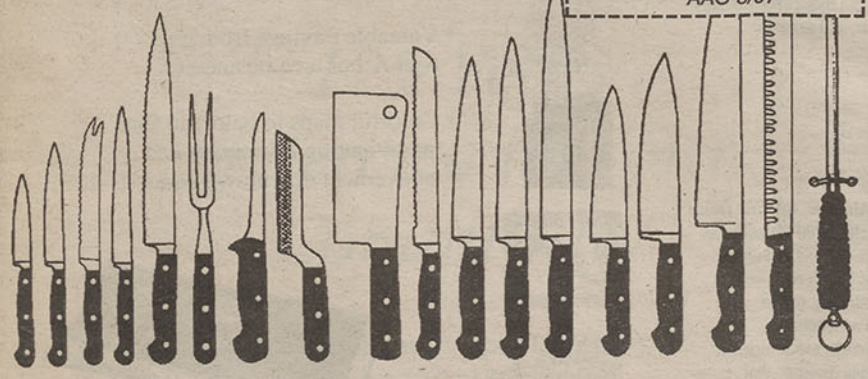

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a.m.–1 p.m., Travis Pointe Country Club, 2829 Travis Pointe Rd. (off Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.). $15 (2 for $25). Reservations required. 475–4103.

★**"Intermediate World Wide Web": Ann Arbor District Library.** Library staffers demonstrate and discuss the finer details of using the Netscape Web browser, including homepage default, autoload images, saving to disk, and more. *1:15 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall, 2713 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration required. 994–2339.*

★**Summer Film Series: U-M Turner Geriatric Services Learning in Retirement Program.** See 6 Wednesday. Today: ***How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*** (David Swift, 1967) stars Robert Morse in an adaptation of the hit Frank Loesser musical farce. 2 p.m.

★**Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Bonsai Society.** All invited to learn about this organization dedicated to the ancient Japanese art of cultivating miniature potted plants. Tonight: George Randall discusses **"Beeches as Bonsai."** *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 475–7277.*

★**"Ann Arbor Speaks!": Borders Books and Music.** Readings by contributors to this new spoken-word CD that features an eclectic array of 10 local poets. *7:30 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

The Moncef Genoud Quartet: Kerrytown Concert House. American debut of this jazz quartet from Geneva, Switzerland, headed by pianist Genoud, an edgy, brightly energetic player whose repertoire ranges from classics by Duke Ellington to challenging works by John Coltrane, all rendered with his own distinctive improvisational touch. *8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $8 & $12 (students, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

"Totally Unrehearsed Theater": Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 6 Wednesday. 8:30 p.m..

FILMS

MTF. "When the Cat's Away" (Cedric Klapisch, 1996). See 22 Friday. Mich., 7 & 9 p.m.

28 THURSDAY

★**"Volunteer Stewardship Workday": Ann Arbor Parks Department.** See 6 Wednesday. Today: A trip to **Argo Park** to help remove invasive non-native plants. Dress for the outdoor work. *10 a.m.–1 p.m., meet in the boat launch parking lot, 1055 Longshore Dr.). Free. 996–3266.*

★**Steve Wood Quintet: U-M Hospitals Gifts of Art.** Classical, melodic jazz by this Detroit-area group. Held in the hospital's 1st-floor lobby if the weather is bad. *Noon, University Hospital Courtyard (behind the main hospital), 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

★**Open House: Saguaro Plants.** *August 28–30, September 4–6, & 11–13.* Saguaro's vast array of exotic tropical and desert plants are offered at deeply discounted prices, with a special section of free plants (one per visitor). Visitors can also view the outdoor pond filled with magnificent blooming aquatic plants, and tour the butterfly house, where many new butterflies are emerging from their cocoons at this time of year. Refreshments. *1–8 p.m (August 28), 9 a.m.–5 p.m. (August 29 & 30), Saguaro Plants, 470 W. Five Mile Rd. (1/2 mile west of Whitmore Lake Rd.), Northfield Twp. Free admission. 449–4237.*

★**"Introduction to the World Wide Web": Ann Arbor District Library.** See 6 Wednesday. *3 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library Loving Branch, 3042 Creek Dr. (off Packard just east of Platt). Free. Preregistration required. 994–2339.*

★**"Coffee Hour": Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to join members of this local pagan group for coffee and discussion. *7 p.m., Sweetwaters Cafe, 123 W. Washington at S. Ashley. Free. 434–7444.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Michigan Nude Beach Advocates.** All invited to help plan social, educational, and political activities related to the development of official public nude beaches and other nudist social issues. *7 p.m., Dominick's, 812 Monroe. Free. 475–9198.*

★**Middle East Task Force: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.** All invited to join this group which works for peace in the Middle East. *7:30 p.m., Bethlehem United Church, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 663–1870.*

★**"Acoustic Jam Session": Oz's Music.** All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by Mike Northrup. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Oz's Music Environment,*

Comedian Tommy Chong, carrying on without his longtime companion Cheech, performs Aug. 29 & 30 at the Mainstreet Comedy Showcase.

1920 Packard. Free. 662–8283.

★Writers Group: Barnes & Noble. All writers invited to discuss and get feedback on their work. *8–9 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

Kirkland Teeple: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. Mainstreet owner Teeple is a somewhat manic observational humorist with a fondness for exaggerating emotions until they assume alarmingly surreal proportions. He's a very gifted storyteller, with impeccable timing and an imaginative sense of dynamics. This past year Teeple bought a house, got married, and became a father, and this weekend's shows will feature new material based on what he calls his "evolving adulthood." Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $9 in advance and at the door. Group rates and other discounts available. 996–9080.*

FILMS

MTF. "When the Cat's Away" (Cedric Klapisch, 1996). See 22 Friday. Mich., 7 & 9 p.m.

29 FRIDAY

★"What's For Dinner?": Whole Foods Market. Monthly demo in which Whole Foods staffers offer recipes and taste samples of quick and healthy meals. Today: a French-inspired menu that includes the Moosewood Restaurant's **Eggplant Provencal.** *3–7 p.m., Whole Foods Market, Lamp Post Plaza, 2398 E. Stadium. Free. 971–3366.*

Tommy Chong: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. *August 29 & 30.* One half of the popular 70s counterculture comedy duo Cheech and Chong, Tommy Chong is known for his blistering, irreverent, PC-unfriendly, and sometimes X-rated views on contemporary society and culture, and of course his advocacy of the joys of marijuana. Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8:30 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $17.50 reserved seating in advance and general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

"Shame on Me": What Will the Neighbors Think? Productions. See 22 Friday. 8:30 p.m.

"Open Dance": Parents Without Partners. All divorced, widowed, separated, and never-married parents are welcome at this dance and social occasion. Recorded music played by a DJ from Imperial Sound. Cash bar. Preceded at 8:30 p.m. by a talk by The Travel Store owner Becky Roberts on **"Traveling as a Single."** *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. $7 (PWP members, $5). 973–1933, 994–7855.*

FILMS

MTF. "When the Cat's Away" (Cedric Klapisch, 1996). See 22 Friday. Mich., 7 & 9 p.m. **"Chasing Amy"** (Kevin Smith, 1997). *August 29–31.* Comedy about a young man in love with a lesbian. Mich., 11 p.m.

30 SATURDAY

★14th Annual Jim Monaghan Antique Engine Show. *August 30 & 31.* A vast display of old steam and gas engines, related paraphernalia, and other contraptions. Side attractions include demonstrations of radio-controlled boats, a steamboat pond, a "wireless" station, a swap meet, live entertainment, and more. Hosted annually by a small band of locals dedicated to "rebuilding old relics to run again." *9 .am.–4 p.m., Domino's Farms Exhibition Hall, 30 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Free admission. 482–3919.*

11th Annual Great Green Yard Sale: Buddhist Society of Compassionate Wisdom. *August 30 & 31 and September 1.* A recycler's bonanza, this popular 3-day sale includes a wide range of donated items (clothing, books, dishes, furniture, plants, etc.) and discarded items scavenged from local streets and from landlords remodeling their apartments. These include chairs, sofas, desks, dressers, kitchen tables, lamps, drapes, curtains, and more—all cleaned and repaired by Zen Buddhist Temple staff and volunteers. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard at Wells. Free admission. 761–6520.*

★Annual Labor Day Weekend Festival: Old St. Patrick's Church. *August 30 & 31 and September 1.* A popular community event offering children's games and activities, a bingo tent, beer tent, Las Vegas gambling tent, bazaar tent, a prize raffle, lots of food, and dancing to live music every night. *1 p.m.–midnight, Old St. Pat's fairgrounds, 5671 Whitmore Lake Rd. at Northfield Church (3 miles north of Ann Arbor). Free admission. 662–8141.*

German Park Picnic. *See review, p. 67.* Old-fashioned German dinner served a la carte (approximately $5–$7) with wine, beer, pop, and coffee for sale. Dancing to German and American music by the **Continentals.** *4–11 p.m., German Park, Pontiac Trail (7 miles north of Ann Arbor; look for the banners and signs marking the entrance). $5 (children 12 & under, free). No one under 18 admitted without parent or legal guardian. 769–0048 (weekdays).*

"Campfire Tales": Leslie Science Center (Ann
★14th Annual Jim Monaghan Antique Engine Show. See 30 Friday. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Arbor Parks Department). Family-oriented tales by **LaRon Williams,** a popular local African-American storyteller who uses a wide range of dialects, gestures, and facial expressions to conjure all sorts of human, animal, and supernatural characters. Marshmallows provided for toasting. Bring a blanket and bug spray. *7–8 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $5 (family, $18). 662–7802.*

Labor Day Weekend Contra Dance. Mostly contra dancing, with some English country and couples dances. Jonathan Sevier of Champaign, Illinois, calls to music by Debbie Jackson, Dave Orlin, and friends. Ice cream sundaes served at the break. All dances taught; no partner needed. Preceded by a potluck at 6 p.m. *7 p.m. (English country dancing), 8 p.m. (contras), 11 p.m. (couples dancing), Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $7 at the door. (248) 698–9527, 913–2076.*

Tommy Chong: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 29 Friday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "The Graduate" (Mike Nichols, 1967). *August 30 & 31.* Landmark satirical film about an aimless young man fresh out of college. Dustin Hoffman. Mich., 4:45 p.m. **"Monty Python and the Holy Grail"** (Terry Gilliam & Terry Jones, 1975). Those wacky Brits have a go at the legend of King Arthur. *U-M students admitted free.* Mich., 7 p.m. **"When the Cat's Away"** (Cedric Klapisch, 1996). See 22 Friday. Mich., 9 p.m. **"Chasing Amy"** (Kevin Smith, 1997). See 29 Friday. Mich., 11 p.m.

31 SUNDAY

★"Clinton Inn Brunch Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Fast-paced 80-mile and moderate-paced 65-mile rides to this historic roadhouse for brunch. Also, a slow-paced 40-mile ride to the same destination leaves at 10 a.m. from the municipal parking lot on Saline–Ann Arbor Rd. (just south of US-12) in downtown Saline. *9 a.m. Meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 764–7555 (80-mile ride), 761–5644 (65-mile ride), 663–5060 (40-mile ride), 913–9851 (general information).*

★14th Annual Jim Monaghan Antique Engine Show. See 30 Friday. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Ann Arbor Artisan Market. See 3 Sunday. Today: Kate Keever demonstrates **quilting.** 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

11th Annual Great Green Yard Sale: Buddhist Society of Compassionate Wisdom. See 30 Saturday. Noon–5 p.m.

★Annual Labor Day Weekend Festival: Old St. Patrick's Church. See 30 Saturday 12:30 p.m.–midnight.

FILMS

MTF. "The Graduate" (Mike Nichols, 1967). See 30 Saturday. Mich., 4:45 p.m. **"When the Cat's Away"** (Cedric Klapisch, 1996). See 22 Friday. Mich., 7 p.m. **"Chasing Amy"** (Kevin Smith, 1997). See 29 Friday. Mich., 9 p.m.

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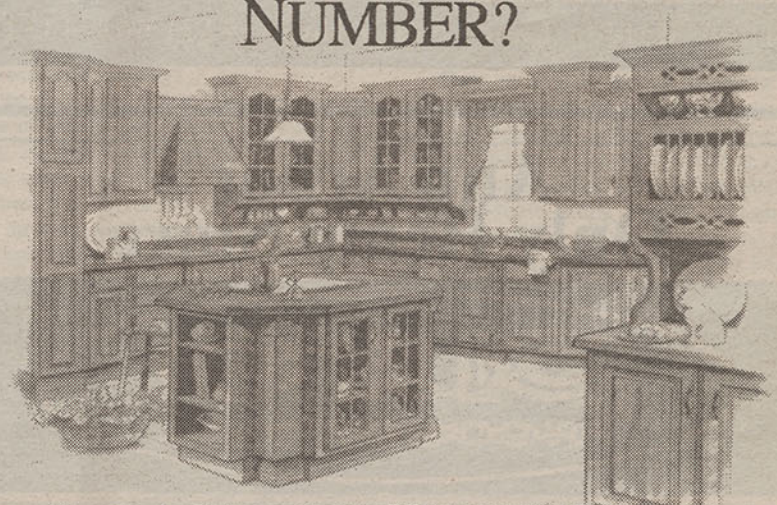

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MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

by John Hinchey

These bookings come from information available at press time. Last-minute changes are always possible, so to be certain who will be playing, it's advisable to call ahead. Unless otherwise noted, live music runs from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Arbor Brewing Company

114 E. Washington **213–1393**

This downtown brewpub features live music on Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays. No cover (except Sun.), no dancing. **Every Sun.: Ann Arbor Bluestage.** All blues musicians invited to join a jam session that usually features performances by several local blues luminaries and forays into country, funk, soul, and rootsy rock 'n' roll. Hosted by the **Terraplanes,** a local blues-rock band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack, with guitarists Pete Bullard and Johnny Rasmussen, harmonica player Dave Cavender, bassist Jim Rasmussen, and drummer Gary Goodman. 8 p.m.–midnight. **Every Tues.:** Live bands to be announced. **Every Wed.: Ann Arbor Irish Ensemble.** Traditional Irish reels, jigs, and acoustic folk. 8–11 p.m. **Every Thurs.** (except August 14)**: Al Hill and the Love Butlers.** Soulful swing, New Orleans–style funk, and boogie-woogie blues by this local band led by Hill's wailing vocals and pumping piano and featuring the Disorderly Horns, former Bop (Harvey) saxman Eric Korte, and former Gangster Fun trombonist John Ferry. 9 p.m.–midnight. August 14 is ABC's monthly **"Beer Tasting"** (see Events).

The Ark

316 S. Main **761–1451**

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music. Cover (usually $9–$11), no dance floor, but for some shows space is cleared for dancing. Discounts (usually $1) on cover for members ($15/year; families, $25/year). All shows begin at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Ticket sales: If a sellout is anticipated, advance tickets are sold and (occasionally) two shows are scheduled. Otherwise, tickets are available at the door only. **Aug. 1: Mahlathini and the Mahotella Queens.** Celebrated 10-piece guitar-based Afro-pop band. See Events. **Aug. 2: Guy Clark.** Texas singer-songwriter. With the **Dixie Chicks** vocal trio and singer-songwriter **Danny Britt.** See Events. **Aug. 7: David Wilcox.** Acclaimed young singer-songwwriter. See Events. **Aug. 10: Kelly Willis.** Country-rock singer-songwriter. See Events. **Aug. 12–14: "A Celtic Festival."** With **Moving Cloud** (August 12), **The Drovers** (August 13), and **The Black Brothers** (August 14). See Events. **Aug. 20: Tempest.** Eclectic folk-rock by this Norwegian ensemble led by vocalist Lief Sorbye, who plays flute and a double-neck electric mandolin. **Aug. 26:** An avant-garde jazz ensemble to be announced. Opening acts are **Joyride** (see Cross Street) and **Flashpaper,** an experimental jazz-classical improvisational trio from Ypsilanti led by Fred Thomas of Chore on guitar, clarinet, and drums. Also, a cellist and violinist.

Ashley's

338 S. State **996–9191**

This downtown restaurant features live music in its underground pub on most Saturdays, 10:30 p.m.–1 a.m. unless otherwise noted. No cover, no dancing. **Aug. 2: South Normal.** Popular local rock 'n' roll quintet known for its tight arrangements, imaginatively varied rhythms, garage-band versatility, and slacker attitude. **Aug. 9: Steve Leggett & the Buzzrats.** *See review, right.* Folk-rock garage band led by singer-guitarist Leggett, a popular local poet and songwriter whose folksy lyrics and gravelly voice have drawn comparisons to Bob Dylan. The band recently released its debut CD, "A Tiny Speck in a Ruthless Universe," on the San Francsico–based Dirty River label. Other members are guitarists Vino Veasley and Phil Tegley, bassist Rob Crozier, and drummers Nate Higley and Charlie Murphy. **Aug. 16: Cyclic Renaissance. Aug. 23: Liberty Street Blues Project.** This new local quartet plays Stevie Ray Vaughan–style blues originals and covers, along with detours into everything from jazz and sambas to Motown and the Beatles. Members are vocalist Matt Highland, guitarist Dan Pratt, bassist Ron Kim, and drummer Kevin Logerquist. **Aug. 30:** No music.

Bird of Paradise

207 S. Ashley **662–8310**

Intimate jazz club co-owned by prominent jazz bassist Ron Brooks. Live music seven nights a week, 9 p.m.–1 a.m. (Fri.–Mon.) & 8 p.m.–midnight (Tues.–Thurs.). Cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing. **Every Fri.** (5–8 p.m.)**: Easy Street Jazz Band.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Paul Klinger. No cover. **Every Sun.** (9 p.m.–1 a.m.)**: Paul Finkbeiner & Friends.** Popular, high-energy jam session led by trumpeter Finkbeiner. No cover. **Every Mon.: Bird of Paradise Orchestra.** 14-piece ensemble organized by bassists Ron Brooks and Paul Keller to showcase original compositions and arrangements by musicians from southeastern Michigan. The varying lineup includes local and area jazz musicians. The group has a new Schoolkids' CD, "Project X." **Every Tues.: Acid Jazz Night.** DJ Bacchus spins acid jazz and hip-hop records. **Every Wed. & Thurs.: Ron Brooks Trio.** One of the state's finest jazz bassists, club co-owner Brooks is joined by pianist Rick Roe (and occasionally U-M music professor Ellen Rowe) and drummer Pete Siers. **Aug. 1 & 2: Sunny Wilkinson & Friends.** This well-known straight-ahead jazz vocalist from L.A. performs bebop ballads and jazz standards. Backed by a trio led by pianist Ron Newman. **Aug. 8 & 9: Paul Vornhagen Quartet.** Upbeat Latin jazz and swing-bop by this ensemble led by local saxophonist and flutist Vornhagen. With bassist Kurt Krahnke, drummer Randy Marsh, and pianist Sven Anderson. Tonight Vornhagen celebrates the release of his new CD. **Aug. 15 & 16: Janet Tenaj & the Sven Anderson Trio.** Tenaj, an artfully adventurous R&B-flavored jazz vocalist, is backed by a jazz ensemble led by pianist Anderson. **Aug. 22 & 23: Mixed Bag Reunion.** Reunion of this jazz quintet that was a fixture of the local music scene in the mid-70s. Members are saxophonist Larry Nozero, guitarist Jerry Glassel, pianist Gary Schunk, drummer Danny Spencer, and bassist Ron Brooks. **Aug. 29 & 30: Ramona Collins & Friends.** Soulful jazz & blues by this Toledo vocalist, who is backed by the Ron Brooks Trio.

The Blind Pig

208 S. First St. **996–8555**

This local music club features live music five nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 10:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Closed Sundays & Mondays. Cover, dancing. **Every Fri.** (6–9 p.m.)**: Drivin' Sideways.** Return (with a revamped lineup) of this veteran local band that's fueled by vocalist Pontiac Pete Ferguson's alternately soulful and ornery vocals. Their country-based repertoire still features lots of classic honky-tonk, but they also cover everything from early Chuck Berry to Sam & Dave to the Meters. The guiding presence of the band's new incarnation seems to be Elvis—they've adopted both large chunks of his repertoire and his attitude that any music he did suited him just because he did it. The band also includes guitarist Chris Casello, keyboardist Martin Simmons, bassist Chris Goerke, and drummer Mark Newbound. **Aug. 1: P. W. Long's Reelfoot.** Postpunk rock 'n' roll. See Events. **Aug. 2: Solid Frog.** Highly regarded alternative rock 'n' roll band from Saline. Opening act is **Atomic Numbers,** a local band that plays clever, sharp-edged pop-rock that it calls "original rock 'n' roll without the waxy buildup." **Aug. 5: "Indie Tuesday."** A weekly showcase for up-and-coming touring bands that record for independent labels. Tonight: **Hose Mobile,** a Tennessee band that plays an intricately rhythmic brand of art rock known as "math rock," along with **Brown Whornet from Austin** and the local band **Hotel Art Memories. Aug. 6: Hope Scope.** Retro-pop band from Ypsilanti. **Aug. 7: Uncle Booby.** Detroit-area band that plays Dave Matthews–style funk-rock. Opening act is **The Rivermen,** a popular blues-rock sextet from Toledo that blends a dense yet easygoing boogie groove with biting retro-guitar riffs and country-style vocal harmonies. **Aug. 8:** To be announced. **Aug. 9: B. B. Queen.** Detroit-based blues band led by Queen, a highly regarded singer-guitarist, known for her rich vocals, who has co-written songs with Koko Taylor. **Aug. 12: "Indie Tuesday."** See above. Tonight: **Queen Size Shag,** an all-female quintet from Montreal, and two bands that play an emotionally intense, highly melodic brand of postpunk known as "emocore": **Commander Venus** from Omaha and **Call It in the Air** from the Detroit area. **Aug. 13:** To be announced. **Aug. 14: Wickford Green.** Metal-edged hard-rock band from Adrian. Opening act is **Gods Made Love,** a local alternative rock band. **Aug. 15: 3 Speed.** Local postpunk pop-rock trio that includes Holy Cows drummer Mike Popovich and two former members of Brothers Grimm. Opening act is **Circus McGurkis,** a Chelsea rock 'n' roll band. **Aug. 16: Harm's Way.** Local hardcore trio fronted by two rappers. Opening acts are **Fifty Lashes,** a postpunk hard-rock band from San Francisco, and **Cor,** a local hardcore band that includes members of Harm's Way. **Aug. 19: "Indie Tuesday."** See above. Tonight: Two Chicago bands, **Lustre King** and **90 Day Men,** and a Minneapolis band, **Arm. Aug. 20: Monkey Chuck.** Popular college-rock band from Kalamazoo. Opening act is **Kung Fu Diesel** (see Cross Street). **Aug. 21: Nick Strange and the Bare Nakeds.** Popular local blues & reggae dance band. Opening act is **Frankenhead,** a local psychedelic-rock quartet. **Aug. 22: 19 Wheels.** Rock 'n' roll band from East Lansing led by former Hannibals vocalist Chris Johnston that has a new Aware CD, "Six Ways from Sunday." **Aug. 23: Morsel.** Popular local band whose self-styled "postmodern cyber-folk," a blend of industrial dissonance and neo-psychedelic bliss, employs a wide range of instrumental and vocal textures. The band released a CD, "Noise Floor." Opening acts are **Cash Money,** a hard-rock band on Touch & Go Records, and **The Wicked Farleys,** a Boston band that plays twisted, angular indie pop. **Aug. 26: "Indie Tuesday."** See above. Tonight: **Reservoir,** a one-man ambient pop band featuring keyboardist Jud of Space Needle. Also, **Unfair Super Powers,** a downriver Detroit band that plays melodic pop-rock, and **The Velmas,** a low-fi alternative pop-rock band from Chicago. **Aug. 27:** To be announced. **Aug 28: Bobgoblin.** Forceful, melodic postpunk glam-pop quartet from L.A. that includes Ann Arbor native Rob Avsharian on drums. Opening act is **Stella,** a guitar-based alternative band from Seattle. **Aug. 29: Knee Deep Shag.** Blues-based rock 'n' roll band from Kalamazoo. Opening act is **Machina,** an unconventional, almost Zappa-esque local funk quartet that features a lead trumpet that is often treated to sound like a variety of other instruments. **Aug. 30:** To be announced.

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The Buzzrats

The genius of collaboration

"I want it all. I want a band that's a real melting pot," says Steve Leggett, lead vocalist and principal songwriter for the Buzzrats. Collaboration is the soul of rock 'n' roll music. For every guitar genius there are several groups of musicians greater than the sum of their individual talents. Where would the Doors have been without Ray Manzarek's acidly ironic organ as counterpoint to Jim Morrison's theatricality?

The Buzzrats bring together a wider range of sounds than almost any other area band. Though "power ambient folk-punk" might cover most of it, a blanket term only obscures the way each song goes off in its own direction yet brings the group together as a unit. Many Buzzrats pieces take shape around Leggett's melodically simple, subtly mystical songs, interpreted in all kinds of unexpected ways. Percussionist Charlie Murphy is a special joy to watch, surrounded by his array of drums, gongs, shakers, keyboards, cymbals, harps, and whatever else he may recently have acquired. The Buzzrats can rock ferociously or meditate quietly, and the shift always seems like the most natural thing in the world.

During the course of a Buzzrats show you can expect to hear everything from Pink Floyd–style guitar atmospherics, hard rock, punk, jazz, and grunge, to long group improvisations reminiscent of the Grateful Dead. Even individual songs may go through several stylistic phases, but they never come off as a pastiche. The Buzzrats music is a true merging of spirits, something that exists only because these particular people found one another.

They are a spontaneous, jamming band that puts most of its creative energy into making recordings rather than into live gigs. *A Tiny Speck in a Ruthless Universe,* on the San Francisco–based Dirty River label, has received some strong acclaim, and another CD is already on the way. But several of the band members labor under Bob Seger's "deadlines and commitments" of middle age, having neither the time to hustle for nightclub dates nor the late-night ways they'd need to actually pull them off. So it's all the more important to see the Buzzrats when you can. You can catch them in Ashley's little basement room on Saturday, August 9.

—James M. Manheim

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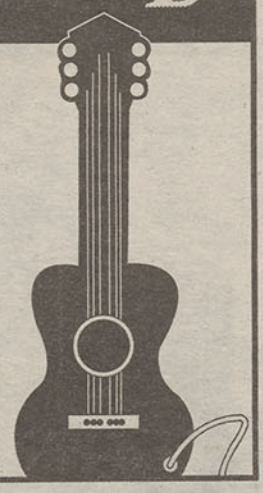

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WHEN YOUR ANGER IS NOT JUST ANGER

More and more women are becoming aware of their anger. Sometimes this is experienced as a terrible burden. Sometimes it is experienced as energizing. We might hear a woman say, "I am really angry." Another might say, "I am absolutely enraged." What is the difference? What difference does it make to know the difference?

Anger is clear and energizing. It is an emotional response to an immediate situation. It motivates the angry person to take action, and leads to some resolution. In contrast, rage is an angry response to a past frustration which is restimulated in the present situation. Rage leads to the same old arguments, which never get resolved.

Why does it matter whether you are feeling anger or rage? If you approach rage as though it is anger, you will get nothing resolved. You will simply repeat the old battles over and over again. Nothing will change. You will get more stuck in your rage and frustration. Only when rage is understood and resolved can a person feel anger and use it productively.

For example, a woman might have feelings about always being the one to change the baby, prepare meals, or plan vacations. The angry woman will be able to talk about the situation in such a way as to promote some change in the arrangements. The enraged woman, on the other hand, will get so caught up in her rage as to become a prisoner of her feelings, unable to act on her own behalf.

If you find yourself being angry a lot, then you are not just angry, you are also enraged. Rage is not helpful. It interferes with productive loving, playing, and working. Resolving your rage and getting access to productive anger is both liberating and empowering.

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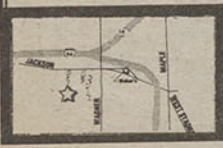

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City Limits
2900 Jackson Rd. 665–4444
Lounge at the Clarion Hotel. Dance bands on weekends, jam sessions on Wednesdays, and a DJ on Thursdays. 8:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Cover (Fri. & Sat. only), dancing. **Every Wed.: Latin Night.** DJ spins Latin dance records. **Every Thurs.: Nite Flight.** Contemporary and roots reggae and calypso band from Ypsilanti. Also, between sets WEMU "World Dance Party" host Peter Brown spins Caribbean dance records. **Every Fri. & Sat.:** Top 40 dance bands to be announced.

Cross Street Station
511 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti 485–5050
Reggae bands (usually) on Thursdays, rock 'n' roll dance bands on weekends, DJs on Sundays and Tuesdays, and open mike on Wednesdays. Dancing, cover. **Every Sun.: Modern Rock Dance Party.** With DJ Rich Retro. Ages 18 & older admitted. No cover. **Every Tues.: Retro Dance Party.** DJ Speed E. Smith plays 70s & 80s dance music. **Every Wed.: Open Mike Night.** Hosted by Tom Loncaric. All musicians invited. No cover. **Aug. 1: The Leftside.** Eclectic local soul-flavored acid jazz quintet led by guitarist Jeff Plankenhorn and featuring vocalist Becky Whiteford, a U-M opera program grad. **Aug. 2: Black Fuzz.** Funk-flavored rock 'n' roll band from East Lansing. **Aug. 7: Homonunculus.** Phish-style groove-rock band from Bloomington, Indiana. Opening act is **Sliver Goodman & the Rocketpops,** an Ypsilanti rock 'n' roll band. **Aug. 8: The Future Presidents.** Hippie rock band from Ypsilanti. **Aug. 9: Deep Space Six.** See Rick's. **Aug. 14: Kung Fu Diesel.** Rockabilly band from West Michigan. **Aug. 15: Uncle Heavy and the Seeing Eye Horns.** Blues band from Kalamazoo. **Aug. 16: Number 6 and the Prisoners.** An Ypsilanti hardcore band. **Aug. 21: Joyride.** 12-piece local funk-rock band featuring former members of the Bucket and four female singers that plays horn-driven party music in the tradition of early James Brown and Funkadelic. **Aug. 22: Daddy Longlegs.** East Lansing band that plays ska- and reggae-flavored rock 'n' roll originals. **Aug. 23: Cabal.** Quirky pop-rock by this Ypsilanti band. **Aug. 28: Groove Monkey Atmosphere.** Local blues-rock power trio. Opening act is **Freedom X,** a Ypsilanti blues-rock band that includes former members of Groove Monkey Atmosphere. **Aug. 29: Workhorse.** Local band whose heavy, guitar-driven rock 'n' roll has provoked comparisons to Helmet and the Rollins Band. **Aug. 30: Baked Potato.** Local alternative rock 'n' roll band.

Del Rio
122 W. Washington 761–2530
No cover, no dancing. Local jazz groups every Sunday, 5–9 p.m. **Aug. 3: Rick Burgess Quintet.** Jazz ensemble led by pianist Burgess. **Aug. 10: Jake Reichbart Quartet.** Local jazz ensemble led by guitarist Reichbart. **Aug. 17: Rick Burgess Quintet.** See above. **Aug. 24: Andrew Bishop Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by local tenor saxophonist Bishop. **Aug. 31: Pete Siers & Los Gatos.** Latin jazz ensemble led by local drummer Siers.

The Earle
121 W. Washington 994–0211
Restaurant with live jazz Monday through Saturday. No cover, no dancing. **Every Mon. & Thurs.** (8–10 p.m.)**: Rick Burgess.** Solo piano. **Every Tues.** (8–10 p.m.)**: Rick Roe.** Solo piano. **Every Wed.** (8–10 p.m.)**: David Froseth.** Solo piano. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio.** Jazz ensemble featuring pianist Burgess, bassist Chuck Hall, and drummer Robert Warren.

Espresso Royale Caffe
214 S. Main 668–1838
The downtown location of this popular coffeehouse features live music on Fridays, 9–11 p.m. **Aug. 1: Lisa Hunter.** Funky, melodic folk-based pop-rock sung in a sharp, clear voice by this local singer-songwriter, a former member of the all-female trio Jane Doe, who recently released her debut CD, "Solid Ground." **Aug. 8: Five Guys Named Moe.** An eclectic mix of styles and genres by this local acoustic swing ensemble. Members are vocalist and multi-instrumentalist Myron Grant, bassist Glenn Bering, fiddler Mary Seelhorst, drummer Eric Nyhuis, and guitarist Jake Reichbart. **Aug. 15: Firebird Balalaika Ensemble.** Traditional Russian and East European folk music by this small ensemble drawn from the Detroit Balalaika Orchestra. **Aug. 22: Salero de Spana.** Traditional flamenco music and dance with dancer Maria Agopian and guitarist Jean Agopian, accompanied by Glenn Bering on the doumbek. **Aug. 29: Blue Moon Quartet.** Classic jazz by the local quartet of vocalist Linda Quiroz, violinist James Sneyd, guitarist Jeff Plankenhorn, and bassist Glenn Bering.

Gandy Dancer
401 Depot 769–0592
Restaurant with live piano every night. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.** (10 a.m.–2 p.m.)**: Charles Gabriel Jazz Trio.** Vintage New Orleans jazz by a Detroit trio led by singer-bassist (and New Orleans native) Gabriel. **Every Sun.** (3:30–9 p.m.)**: Alice Rhodes.** Solo pianist. **Every Mon.–Wed.** (6–11 p.m.)**: Tim Howley.** This local pianist plays a variety of popular music and takes requests. **Every Thurs.** (6–9 p.m.)**, Fri.** (5:30–9 p.m.)**, & Sat.** (6 p.m.–midnight)**: Carl Alexius.** Veteran local jazz pianist who takes requests for oldies.

The Green Room
206 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti 482–9774
Alternative performing arts space in downtown Ypsilanti. All ages admitted; no alcohol served. Shows begin at 10 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Cover, no dancing. **Aug. 1: Strapimp.** Pop band from San Francisco with a female lead vocalist. **Aug. 8: Viewmaster.** Pop band from New York City. **Aug. 9: Townies.** Rock 'n' roll band from New York City.

The Gypsy Cafe
214 N. Fourth Ave. 994–3940
This coffeehouse features an eclectic mix of live semi-acoustic music, with occasional poetry readings, performance art, and even some comedy in its back room on weekends, 9:30 p.m.–midnight. Also, tarot readings on weekends (8:30 p.m.–2 a.m.). Cover; no dancing. August schedule to be announced. **Every Thurs.: Young Musician's Showcase.** A showcase for young pop & rock musicians age 14 & older hosted by **G. Q. & the Cosmik Rayz,** a local blues and R&B band led by guitarist Gary Quackenbush. Interested musicians should contact Quackenbush at the Music Go Round at 662–1080. 9–11:30 p.m. **Aug. 1, 2, & 8:** To be announced. **Aug. 9: Joe Serrapere.** Local singer-songwriter who writes spare, haunting ballads and blues. She is backed tonight by a guitarist and bassist. **Aug. 13: "Wide Open Mike."** All musicians, poets, comics, and other performers invited. Sign-up begins at 7:30 p.m. 9–11 p.m. **Aug. 13: Audrey Becker.** Local singer-songwriter who writes intelligent, well-crafted, gutsy folk-oriented pop songs. She recently released her debut CD, "Where I Draw the Line." Opening act is **Kevin Meisel,** a highly regarded local singer-songwriter. **Aug. 16: MKR.** New local trio featuring Transmission drummer Andrew Kitchens and two members of Drivetrain, guitarist Dan Marcus and bassist Adam Roberts. **Aug. 22: Chris Buhalis.** Highly regarded local singer-songwriter. Opening act is **Nick Juno,** a talented singer-songwriter from Flushing, Michigan, who writes folk-based topical songs and ballads. His repertoire also includes material by Woody Guthrie, Phil Ochs, and other influences. **Aug. 23: Brian Lillie & Jim Roll.** Two local singer-songwriters swap songs. Lillie is the former Maitries guitarist whose CD, *Waking Up in Traffic,* was named the best local release of 1995 by *Agenda,* and Roll has released three cassettes. **Aug. 27: "Wide Open Mike."** See above. **Aug. 29: The Original Brothers and Sisters of Love.** Eclectic acoustic trio. **Aug. 30: Frank Pahl.** Quirkily humorous, razor-witted original songs by this acclaimed local composer and multi-instrumentalist who tonight celebrates the release of his new CD, *In Cahoots.* Opening act is **The Charming Hostesses,** an all-female, mostly a cappella trio from California that Pahl says makes "really cool music."

The Habitat
3050 Jackson Rd. 665–3636
Lounge at Weber's Inn. Solo piano during happy hour by **Sharon Marie** (Mon.–Fri. 4:45–8:45 p.m.). Dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.: "Space Age Bachelor Pad Cocktail Party."** With DJ Al Valusek. 4 p.m.–midnight. **Aug. 1 & 2: Kaleidoscope.** Top-40 dance band. **Aug. 5–9 & 12–16: Northern Lights.** Top-40 dance

band. **Aug. 19–23 & 26–30: L'USA.** Top-40 dance band.

The Heidelberg

215 N. Main 663–7758

This rock 'n' roll club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features DJs on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays (10 p.m.–1:30 a.m.) and live dance bands on Fridays & Saturdays (10:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.) and Sundays (8–10:30 p.m.). Cover, dancing. Also, occasional live music in the basement Rathskeller (no cover). **Every Sun.: II-V-I Orchestra.** Late-30s swing and 40s R&B. See Events. 7–9:30 p.m. **Every Tues.: "Nucleus."** DJ **Bubblicious** spins acid jazz and hip-hop records, with accompaniment by guest DJs and live bands to be announced. **Aug. 12: Ann Arbor Poetry Slam.** See Events. 7:30 p.m. **Aug. 15: Deep Space Six.** See Rick's. **Aug. 22: Steve Somers Band.** Top-notch soul-flavored R&B, blues, and 70s funk sextet led by Somers, a versatile guitarist with a pungent, staccato style, and vocalist **Valerie Barrymore.** With drummer Jesse Godfrey, bassist John Ford, trumpeter and keyboardist Dave Meyers, saxophonist Joe LeBeau, and second guitarist Dave Budzinski.

Leonardo's

2101 Bonisteel Blvd. 764–7544

Performance area in the food court at the U-M Pierpont Commons (formerly North Campus Commons). Live music Mondays, 3–5 p.m. No dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.: Randy Napoleon Quartet.** Jazz standards and originals, from bebop to modern styles, by a quartet led by this local guitarist. With vibes player Steve Aho, drummer Aaron Siegel, and bassist Alana Rocklin. **Aug. 31** (7–9 p.m.)**: Randy Napoleon Quartet.** See above. **Aug. 31** (9–11 p.m.)**: Mr. B.** Fabulous bone-melting boogie-woogie and blues piano by Mark "Mr. B" Braun, one of Ann Arbor's most accomplished and exciting musicians. Mr. B has mastered all the classics from Lux Lewis and Jimmy Yancy to Brother Montgomery and Professor Longhair, and he has added several dynamite originals to the long tradition he works in.

The Nectarine

510 E. Liberty 994–5436

This popular local New York–style dance club features DJs five nights a week and live music on one Monday each month, 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Fri.: Boys' Night Out.** With DJ Roger LeLievre. **Every Sat.: 70s & 80s Dance Party.** With DJ Roger LeLievre. **Every Tues.: Boys' Night Out.** See above. **Every Wed.: Disco Dance Party.** With DJ Groove Boy. **Every Thurs.: EuroBeat Dance Party.** European-style house, techno, and alternative dance music with DJ Reno. **Every Mon.: 80s Retro & Alternative.** DJ Roger LeLievre spins dance records by everyone from New Order to Ministry.

Rick's American Cafe

611 Church 996–2747

Live music on weekends and live music or DJs during the week, 10 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Campus-area location gives this club a strong collegiate flavor, but the music also draws a heavy nonstudent clientele. Large dance floor. Dancing, cover (except Tuesdays). **Every Sun.: "The Sessions."** Acid jazz with DJ Hans Solo & Acufuncture, an ensemble of live musicians. **Every Mon.: "Modern Dance Party."** With DJ John King. **Every Tues.: Buddy Popps.** An eclectic mix of vintage rock 'n' roll by this local singer-guitarist. **Every Wed.: Soulstice.** College rock cover band from East Lansing. **Every Thurs.: Retro Dance Party.** With DJ the Godfather. **Aug. 1: Big Dave and the Ultrasonics.** High-powered, brightly polished blues and blues-rock by this popular local band led by vocalist and guitarist Dave Steele. The band has a new live Schoolkids' CD, "No Sweat!" **Aug. 2: Butterfly.** Very popular local band that plays groovy, Sly Stone–style soul music. **Aug. 8: Botfly.** Popular neo-hippie band from East Lansing. **Aug. 9: The Foster Kids.** College pop originals and covers by this Lansing band led by singer-guitarist Tommy Foster. **Aug. 15: Fat Amy.** College pop band from East Lansing led by singer-songwriter Bobby Guiney whose songs have been featured on the *Aware 4* and recently released *Aware Michigan* compilation CDs. **Aug. 16: Artifact.** 9-piece horn-driven R&B/funk band from Detroit. **Aug. 22: Dorothy.** This East Lansing band features a female vocalist and plays contemporary dance-rock originals and covers. Opening act is **Troll for Trout,** a popular college rock band from Grand Rapids. **Aug. 23: Deep Space Six.** Local Grateful Dead cover band. **Aug. 29: TopKat.** Percussion-led dance-groove quartet led by singer-guitarist Jeff Gordon and two former members of the Difference, drummer Tom Campbell and keyboardist Dean Angermeier. **Aug. 30:** To be announced.

Shooters

11485 North Territorial, Dexter 426–1600

This sports bar adjacent to the Terrace Place restaurant features DJs, 9 p.m.–1 a.m. Very large dance floor. Dancing, no cover. **Every Tues.–Sun.:** DJs play a wide variety of vintage and contemporary rock, country, and R&B dance music.

Tap Room

201 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 485–5320

This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern features live music six nights a week, usually 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m., with karaoke on Sundays, 9 p.m.–1 a.m. Cover (Fri. & Sat. only), dancing. **Every Mon.: Open Mike Unplugged.** Hosted by **Chris Buhalis,** a local singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist. All acoustic performers invited. 9:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. **Every Tues.: Open Mike/Blues Jam.** Hosted by **C. C. and the Soul Plumbers,** a blues band led by Chris Casello of the Prodigals. All bands and musicians invited. **Every Wed.: Open Mike.** Hosted by **The Martindales,** a local band led by singer-guitarist Brian Brickley that plays blues and rock covers and originals. All acoustic and electric musicians invited. **Aug. 1: Steve Nardella Rock 'n' Roll Trio.** Ann Arbor's most passionate and compelling roots-rocker performs fiercely cathartic, blues-drenched reworkings of rock 'n' roll and rockabilly classics and obscure gems, along with some authentic Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker blues. Nardella's debut Schoolkids' CD, "Daddy Rollin' Stone," still gets lots of Detroit-area radio airplay. **Aug. 2: Little Red & the Big Blues Band.** Local quintet led by former Bonnevilles guitarist Bob Schetter that plays uptempo Chicago blues. With new member Paul "Rufus" Clayton on blues harp. **Aug. 7: Shannon Hemingway.** Acoustic folk-rock singer-songwriter. **Aug. 8: Rhythm Street featuring Stacia.** R&B band led by a female vocalist. **Aug. 9: Curtis Sumpter Project.** Blues band. **Aug. 14: Los Diablos.** Country originals and covers by this new Community High quintet that features former Blue Vinyl drummer B. J. Hill on guitar and vocals, guitarist Ian Wolfe, bassist Toby Summerfield, and two members of Lucky Haskins, vocalist Ryan Racine and drummer Dave Brophy. **Aug. 15: The Prodigals.** This popular local blues-based quartet features the 60s-style vocal harmonies and neo-surf instrumental work of guitarists Chris Casello and Al Davron, who is also the lead singer. With bassist Kim French and drummer Dario Insinga. The band's new 8-song cassette features originals like "Sharkskin Buffalo" and "All My Friends Are in Jail," along with covers by everyone from the Ventures and the Byrds to Albert King and Chris Isaak. **Aug. 16: Beale Street.** Blues band. **Aug. 21: Kate Haughey.** Acoustic folk-rock. **Aug. 22: The Martindales.** See above. **Aug. 23: Professor Easy and the Eclipse Jazz & Blues Band.** Blues band from Toledo. **Aug. 28: Robert Jones.** The host of WDET's "Blues from the Lowlands," Jones is an excellent singer and guitarist, with a huge repertoire that draws on Delta, Texas, Chicago, and other blues traditions. **Aug. 29 & 30: Lady Sunshine and the X Band.** Local gospel-flavored blues band led by singer Lady Sunshine, a fiery, rich-voiced singer whose style is something of a cross between Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle.

TC's Speakeasy

207 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 483–4470

This downtown Ypsilanti tavern features karaoke on Mondays & Wednesdays (9 p.m.–1 a.m.) and dance bands on Fridays & Saturdays (9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.). Dancing, no cover. **Every Wed.–Fri.** (6–8 p.m.)**: Rob Moses.** Solo pianist and vocalist. **Every Mon.: Karaoke.** Host to be announced. **Every Thurs.: Acid Jazz.** With a DJ to be announced. Weekend live music schedule to be announced.

Theo-Doors

705 W. Cross, Ypsilanti 485–6720

This EMU campus–area restaurant turns into a dance club after 10 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Mon. & Thurs.: Modern & Retro.** DJs spin top-40 dance tunes. **Every Wed.: Karaoke and Open Mike Night.** All acoustic performers invited. The weekend live music schedule resumes in September. ■

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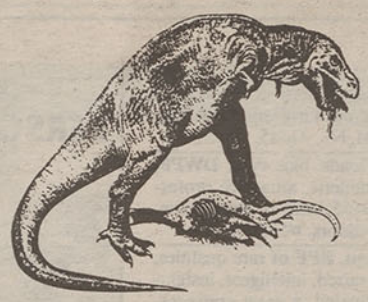

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PERSONALS

Personals Key

A=Asian
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D=Divorced
F=Female
G=Gay
H=Hispanic
ISO=In Search Of
J=Jewish
✍=Letters
LTR=Long Term Relationship
M=Male
ND=Nondrinker
NS=Nonsmoker
☎=Phone Calls
P=Professional
S=Single
W=White

Women Seeking Men

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 370–2072
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. $1.95/min.

Mom told me to marry a nice Jewish boy. I didn't listen. Boy, was she ever right! Liberal **DJ** mom of 4-year-old, 28, ISO JPM, 28–40. NS/ND. ☎5348✍

SJF, 42, 5'7", 124 lbs., beautiful, nature lover, degreed, honest, playful, dog owner into healing arts, music, healthy food, hiking, metaphysics. ISO tall, fit, sensitive, loving, WM, 33–45, NS with similar values and interests. Any religion OK. ☎5410✍

Seeking a more balanced life. If you are creative, open-minded, playful, but grounded and have personal integrity, are capable of both activity and quiet, there may be some possibilities. **SWF,** 37, attractive and creative herself, seeks companion in life's adventure. ☎5349✍

DWPF, 41, tall, slim, attractive, seeks handsome, active, hip, intelligent, funny, educated, financially successful S/DPM who wishes to fall in love, who has never responded to a personal ad and wouldn't be caught dead doing so. ☎5355✍

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Ann Arbor Observer
PERSONALS

Loving, **DWF,** 41, mother of 15-year-old deaf girl, likes cooking and bowling. Seeking S/DWM, NS, 31–45. ☎5351✍

Attractive, fit, blonde, blue-eyed, **DWPF,** 49, seeks tall, athletic, attractive professional male, 40–55, who is honest, fun, and loves the outdoors. ☎5354✍

Gorgeous, foreign, **BPF** of rare qualities, 32, size 6, well-raised, intelligent, insightful and sophisticated, a great conversationalist. Charming personality and an excellent lover. One dependent. ISO very romantic, fit, NS, WM physician only. Generous-spirited, honest, and unattached. Must be free to love and able to give himself completely in a committed relationship leading to marriage. Old-fashioned values a plus, age open, kids OK. Light drinker, no drugs, no games. ☎5365✍

SWPF, 43, 5'4", slim, fit, M.D., NS, into arts, lively discussion, gratifying career, and parenting. ISO PM to share joy in living, mutual support, LTR. ☎5365✍

Attractive, classy lady, 60 years old, ISO tall, active, fun, SWPM, 62+. Travel, boating, golf are pluses. ☎5366✍

SWPF, 38, 5'4", seeks companionship with attractive, active, fit, intelligent, honest, humorous, open-minded, adventurous, SWPM. ☎5371✍

SWPF, 38, 5'4", seeks SWPM companion who is attractive, active, easygoing, open-minded, independent, with sense of humor. ☎5376✍

Active, petite, **SWPF,** 35, ISO SWPM, 33–38, who likes skiing, biking, the outdoors, and has a sense of adventure. Looking for friendship and fun. ☎3377✍

Creative, attractive, professional, vivacious 40s, with liberal world view. Enjoys animals, tennis, gourmet cooking. Appreciates intelligence, compassion. ☎5378✍

I'm very pretty; you're too deep to care about that. I'm very bright; you're too secure to be intimidated. I'm a little older than you; you find that intriguing. I live a long way away; you have a car. ☎5379✍

SWF, petite blue-eyed blonde, young looking age 37, college grad ISO educated S/DWPM, NS, age 30–49, for friendship and possible LTR. Letters preferred with/without photo. ☎5398✍

Lovely queen-sized (250 lbs.), **SWF,** 29, long red hair, classy, offbeat, low maintenance (mostly), ISO attractive, intelligent, loving, SWM, 27–40, for LTR. Must be employed, emotionally secure and accessible, confident, and romantic. Motorcycle cops get bonus points. ☎5399✍

Classic Slavic beauty, young 42, NS/ND, no TV, UU Mensan seeks frugal, stable, musical man for classical duets, marriage, and family life: yours/mine/ours. Allegro, appasionato, con brio al fine. ☎5401✍

Emotional baggage must fit under seat. Kind, funny, creative, **SWF,** 32, ISO SM for a lifetime match. Race open, smile a must. ☎5402✍

Let's enjoy each other's company with music, walks, sunshine, water, ethnic foods, conversation, and much laughter. I'm a **WPF,** 47, NS, you? ☎5403✍

Sweet, smart, pretty, **SWF,** no kids, cultured, discerning, seeks matching SW/HM, 28–39, NS, of above average intellect, character, looks, height. ☎5373✍

Attractive, energetic, successful, **DWPF** with well-developed mind and body seeks emotionally aware, intelligent, sparkling WPM to share dancing, theater, thoughts, sails, hikes, and more. ☎5405✍

You'd find me (warm, vivacious, 32, **SW** PhD) listening to NPR, remembering sipping coconut milk on the hills of Bali. I'd find you (educated, 27–39) writing in your journal on a sailboat. ☎5406✍

Sally seeks Harry. **SWF,** 38, fit, attractive, liberal, fun, PhD seeks educated, easygoing, positive, SM with kind heart and great sense of humor to share conversation, dining, music, athletics, outdoors, and more. ☎5407✍

Attractive, **SWM,** 33, blue eyes, brown hair, enjoys athletics, outdoors, movies, art, looking for a woman with artistic style and traditional values for dating and good conversation. ☎5360✍

PERSONAL AD OF THE MONTH

All Personal ads in the Ann Arbor Observer are automatically entered in our monthly drawing. The winner will receive a gift certificate for **Cappuccino and Dessert for Two** at...

You Jane, me Tarzan! ISO SWF, 27–39, fit, smart. Have vine, pool, jungle. Secure, eclectic, neat, passionate, optimistic! Loincloth or tux. Un-gow-waw Cheetah! ☎5370✍

Gratzi
Coffee House • Classic Cafe

To place an Ann Arbor Observer Personal ad, use the form on page 79 & bring it in or **FAX** it to (313) 769-3375.

Free-spirited, attractive, slender, **DWPF** awaiting letter from happy, kind, intelligent, fit, normal, 50+, best-friend-to-be. 5408✍

Ron, I loved your letter, but you didn't give your last name and address! Write me again and we can go for that cup of coffee. My July box # was 5299. ☎5415✍

I love my dog and horses, but am tired of spending all my evenings with them. Just turned 40, **DWF,** attractive, energetic, hardworking; love to dance, travel, or just rent a movie and sip champagne. ISO S/DWM with eclectic interests to share good times, conversation, and beautiful sunsets from my porch. ☎5413✍

Men Seeking Women

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 370–2072
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. $1.95/min.

Handsome, athletic, muscular, **DWPM,** 31, 6', 190 lbs. ISO Playboy playmate look-alike, 18–31. ☎5346✍

DWM, 45, PhD, 5'9", 150 lbs. Farmer researcher interested in sustainable environment, agriculture, economics. ISO scientist to share farming, travels, romance. ☎5347✍

Handsome, but not perfect, **SWPM,** 29, liberal values, seeks an attractive, not necessarily perfect, wholesome, subversive, SWF, age 24–32, who has similar down-to-earth qualities and values. ☎5350✍

DWM, good-looking, fun, U-M faculty, awaits friendly letter from attractive W, good character, very smart, NS, intellectual, experienced, 30–50. 1000✍

Handsome, eclectic, educated, **DWM,** active in business, sports, travel, camping, and the arts seeks attractive, active, creative, upbeat WF, 23–36. ☎5352✍

Looking for a walk in the clouds . . . honest, warm, hardworking, faithful, professional, 34, blond, blue, 5'9", very cute, loves kids, dogs, outdoors, travel. You . . . petite, tender, gentle, playful, honest F, 24–36, with no dependents. Photo and letter appreciated. ☎5356✍

SWPM, 46, master's degreed, health care professional, 6'2", 215 lbs. Positive, handsome, romantic, spontaneous with a good sense of humor. Athletically inclined, golf/all racquet sports, parlor games, well-endowed financially. Likes travel, culture. Seeks SWPF with 0–1 child who is marriage-minded. ☎5411✍

WM, 40, tall, trim, friendly, interesting, considerate, good looker, wants to be enjoyed zestily by similar WF in low-key, hopefully LTR. Your move . . . ☎5357✍

SWM, 25, 5'11", unique, honest, smart, self-confident, with mild head injury. ISO SWF, 20–30, fun, attractive, open-minded. Looking for possible LTR. ☎5358✍

DWPM, late 50s, 40s in body and spirit, ISO SF, to share love of nature study and protection. I'm trim, active, NS, socially aware, well-educated, serious, silly. Enjoy travel, reading, learning, writing, outdoors, lots else. Please write me describing self, interests, values. Photo? 5359✍

Nonsequiturs and oops! **SWPM,** boyish 54, ISO SWF, 40–50. I was almost on the Letterman show. ☎5382✍

First-time advertiser, **SWM,** 5'8", physically fit, searching for SWF, 28–38, to share relaxing, adventurous weekend or weeknight canoeing experience. ☎5361✍

SWM, 31, 5'11", with long hair, successful, into music, antiques, dogs, and old cars. Looking for playmate, soulmate to explore life's offerings. ☎5362✍

SWM, 34, 5'10", 145 lbs. Huggable, kissable Ann Arbor guy looking for huggable, kissable Ann Arbor girl. I'm willing to forget about the Ann Arbor part. Let's have a squirt gun fight! Absolutely no grownups allowed. ☎5367✍

Tennis—**SWPM** seeking a trim woman, 30–40+, to play good tennis and maybe a romantic LTR. My tennis skills are 4.0+. I'm 52, attractive, vegetarian, NS, and enjoy backpacking, scuba, sailing, travel, cooking, reading, writing, classical music, and a simple lifestyle. Let's play tennis (doubles, too) and see what else develops. ☎5368✍

SJM teacher, 41, NS, seeks LTR with bright, warm, attractive, caring, fun woman. I am compassionate, fun, intelligent, progressive, and handsome. I enjoy music, dancing, friends, films, travel, softball, and festivals. Let's enjoy together. ☎5369✍

You Jane, me Tarzan! ISO SWF, 27–39, fit, smart. Have vine, pool, jungle. Secure, eclectic, neat, passionate, optimistic! Loincloth or tux. Un-gow-waw Cheetah! ☎5370✍

SWM, 37, 6'1", fit, new to AA. Engineer turned medical student. Loving my new field, but missing someone special to share life, movies, hiking, dining, laughter, travel, quiet times. LTR with right woman. ☎5372✍

Romantic, humorous, **DWM,** 49, seeks NS, fit friend first, marriage-minded woman who enjoys nature, walks, conversation, and chocolate. ☎5380✍

Handsome, intelligent, **SWPM** grad student (PhD), NS, 5'10", blue/light brown. Energetic, enjoys outdoors, ocean beach, rollerblading, Seinfeld show. Looking for pretty/cute AF, 19–26, intelligent, petite, to share free time, fun, and friendship. ☎5381✍

SWM, 30, 5'11", runner ISO strong, smart, slim, SF who loves science, art, travel, Michigan Theater films. For summer fun and winter warmth. ☎5383✍

Tall, handsome, **SWM,** NS, would like to meet tall, (5'11"+) SF. ☎5384✍

SWPM, 37, 5'8", 155 lbs., attractive, creative, laid-back, dry humor. Likes people, music, ideas, conversation. Lives in downtown Ann Arbor. ISO sweet, honest, intelligent SWF, NS. ☎5386✍

SWM, 37, tall, dark, and handsome. College student, never married, ISO intelligent, pretty soulmate to restore my faith in love before it is too late. ☎5385✍

Absolutely secure, **SWM** seeks open-minded, adventurous, trim, SWF who likes to do new things! ☎5388✍

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PERSONALS

Educated, thoughtful, **SWM,** 33, who shouldn't have to take out a personal ad, seeks SWF who shouldn't have to resort to reading them. Respond with something witty. ☎5387✍

Boater, artist, rural, 40s, trim, 5'6", NS, spiritual, honorable looking for home-centered W of similar description. Friends first. ☎5389✍

SWM, 32, 5'7", slim, firm bod, cute, with Letterman-Dr. Katz dry humor seeks cute and sassy, slim and sweet young lady for summer fun. ☎5390✍

Trim, **SWM,** comfortable to be with, dependable, considerate, likes cats, never married, enjoys dancing, walks, the gym, music, and reading. NS, 40s, 5'8". ☎5391✍

DWM, 43, witty and attractive, is seeking same in gal to explore and enjoy the good things Ann Arbor and life have to offer. ☎5392✍

If a good woman can inspire greatness within an average man, what happens when two extraordinary people get together? **DWM,** 47, well traveled, attractive, romantic ISO extraordinary SWF with heart, soul, passion. ☎5393✍

SWM, 33, 6', 180 lbs., slim, and athletic. Outgoing, into personal growth; attractive, unique, fun! Looking for same. Age flexible. ☎5416✍

To Place Your Own Personal Ad

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Ann Arbor Observer,
201 Catherine,
Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

SWPM, 46, tall, slim, sincere, NS/ND, enjoys lakefront living, boats, BBQs, sunning, comedy, movies, dining out. Looking for LTR with a trim, NS, upbeat W lady with similar interests and desires. ☎5394✍

Hoof-hearted? **SWM** city slicker ISO SWF farmer's daughter to introduce me to the wildlife. ☎5395✍

Nice looking, tall, thin, fit, **SWM** ISO matching spontaneous, fun-loving, SWF, 30–45, to share social and sporting activities. Loves dancing, beach, spa, travel, affection, nice surprises. ☎5396✍

Handsome, masculine, outdoorsman, exceptionally young looking 50, 6'4", slim, trim, blond/hazel, never married and no dependents. Seeking slender, intelligent, educated, and loving SWF over 35 who might be looking for me. ☎5397✍

SPM, successful, NS, intelligent, fit, confident. 48, 6'2", and very youthfully handsome. Introspective, with capacity for intimacy. Good listener, widely traveled, fun-loving, enjoys music, good conversations. Interested in courting attractive F, 35–45, with similar qualities and interests. ☎5404✍

Sleepless in Toledo, **DBM,** 45, 5'11", NS/ND, 185 lbs., para-professional, Muslim, jazz musician, funny, and bright ISO honest, insightful, gentle but spirited S/DF, NS. ☎5409✍

Gentleman looking for transpersonal idealist, anticompulsive, play mind. **SJM,** 39, Electric Wizard is seeking your companionship. Serious B'dudes only, please. Prefer lookers, perfect, fat, thin, intense, or gorgeous. I am a jauncy, redheaded scientist, muscular, and successful. ☎5412✍

Women Seeking Women

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 370–2072
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. $1.95/min.

Tall, fair, handsome, intellectually adroit, gracious **GF,** 48, seeks educated, profound, polished, tender, comely F with whom to seize the day. ☎5375✍

Friendships

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 370–2072
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. $1.95/min.

Seasoned backpacker, very low impact, wanted as companion to explore northern back country with male, 40. ☎5345✍

WPM seeking new friends around the area. Need bowlers for September Friday night league (Moose). ☎5363✍

Looking for females to hang out, movies, dancing. ☎5414✍

General Personals

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 370–2072
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. $1.95/min.

FAKE AD CONTEST
Can you find the fake display ad in this issue of the Observer? If you can, you could win a $25 gift certificate from one of our advertisers. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, August 12. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: Fake Ad, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769–3375; E-mail: penny@aaobserver.com (include address and phone number).

LINCS—Singles introduction program, Jewish Family Services. 971–3280.

Hot sun, cool fun! All A2 area singles invited. Meet new friends while you beat the August heat; different low or no-cost weekend events. Call for details. ☎5417✍

P E R S O N A L

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN ALL MY LIFE?

SAME OLD STORY, LOOKING FOR LOVE IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES. UNTIL NOW. I WISH I HAD STARTED USING THE PERSONALS YEARS AGO. I MEAN, THEY REALLY WORK! IN ONE WEEK MY FREE VOICEMAIL WAS FULL OF MESSAGES FROM PEOPLE WHO FIT THE DESCRIPTION I ASKED FOR. SUDDENLY, LIFE IS GOOD.

Person pictured is not an actual customer

TO PLACE YOUR FREE PERSONAL AD

JUST USE THE FORM ON PAGE 79

TO LISTEN AND RESPOND TO OBSERVER PERSONAL ADS, CALL

1-900-370-2072

CALL COSTS $1.95 PER MINUTE. MUST BE 18 OR OVER.

Ann Arbor Observer Personals

E X P E R I E N C E

CLASSIFIEDS

Real Estate

NOTICE: All real estate advertising in this magazine is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." This magazine will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. For information, or to register a complaint, call the Fair Housing Center at 994–3426.

For Sale

WHY RENT WHEN YOU CAN BUY? Beautiful serene office suite with a/c, floor to ceiling view of atrium, ample off-street parking, and centrally located in Ann Arbor. $380/month with EZ land contract terms. (517) 456–8800.

HORSE LOVERS' PARADISE! Stunning natural setting. Beautiful home on 13.4 acres with room for horses overlooking popular golf course. Four bedroom, 3 bath, 2 fireplaces, vaulted ceilings, open floor plan. Barn with 3 stalls, concrete floor, electricity, running water, and fenced pasture with paddock. $290,000. Adrian schools. Lynne Fox, The Goedert Co., (517) 263–8961 or pager (800) 412–0488. (6667.B)

Office Space

SPACE FOR RENT—Downtown 1,200 sq. ft., parking available. Includes utilities, desks, and chairs. $1,600/mo. Call 663–9122 or 920–5313.

MAIN STREET in downtown Ann Arbor, available now. Street level with large windows, flexible terms, and basement storage optional. Call Bob, (313) 665–6173.

LOCATION LOCATION LOCATION Main St. office suites from 70 sq. ft. to 635 sq. ft. New heat and air, low lease rates. Call Davis Shapiro at (248) 661–5090.

Rentals

FOR RENT—712 W. Huron Apartments. Drive by or call 332–3764 for recorded information.

COTTAGES FOR RENT north of Alpena on Grand Lake. Fireplace, boat, dock. Summer, fall, and winter availability. (810) 887–3800.

Burns Park & Old West Side. Beautifully restored homes, woodwork throughout. Two-, 3-, or 4-bedroom homes. 994–3157.

SHARE 3-BEDROOM HOUSE. Six blocks to downtown! Two full baths, hardwood floors, living room, eat-in kitchen, W/D. M or F, no smoking. Share food, etc. $350–$500 plus utilities. 913–5672.

Services

Duke Realty offers professional guidance through Ann Arbor's changing residential marketplace. Kevin Duke is the creator of **The Real Map™**, the colorful contour map of property values ****Available at Borders**** and the Ann Arbor Observer's **Home Sales Map.** Call (313) 747–9898 or E-mail kkduke@concentric.net for information!

MOVING TO WONDERFUL ANN ARBOR? Call relocation specialist Mary Murton at The Michigan Group Realtors, (313) 662–8600 ext. 349.

SPECIALIZING IN CONDOMINIUMS—buying or selling, please call Mary Murton at The Michigan Group Realtors, (313) 662–8600 ext. 349.

KIDS GONE? House too much work? Think condo. Call "condominium specialist" Mary Murton at The Michigan Group Realtors, (313) 662–8600 ext. 349.

WHY RENT? Invest in a small condo home of your own. Call "condominium specialist" Mary Murton at The Michigan Group Realtors, (313) 662–8600 ext. 349.

Recreational, Lake Property

WATERFRONT LOTS FOR SALE—Michigan U.P., 200', Houghton Co., spectacular views, $400/ft. Good road access. Call (906) 523–4947.

Condominiums

TWO-BEDROOM CONDO/RANCH. Furnished, A/C, garage, deck, near Briarwood, on AATA route. Available late August. Rick, 429–9449.

Entertainment

The Classifieds deadline for the September issue is August 11.

★★ ELEGANT MUSIC FOR CLASSIC OCCASIONS ★★
Rapsodia Ensemble provides exquisite string music for all special events. Reasonable rates. (313) 747–8106.

LA CORDA ENSEMBLE
Distinctive string music for a touch of elegance at your wedding, reception, or any festive occasion. String duo, trio, and quartet. Currently appearing for Sunday brunches at the Whitney restaurant in Detroit. Kathryn Stepulla, 459–5296.

THE FLUTE-HARP DUO
Music for all occasions
U-M graduates, 20 years' experience
Rochelle 475–1660 or Nancy 994–5457

★ HAMMER DULCIMER ★
Music for weddings, in/outdoor parties, any occasion, and retail. Lessons avail. Call Jane Chevalier, 665–2357.

★ PARTY MAGIC ★
Jim Fitzsimmons
Magic that **"Fitz"** your event! 461–SHOW

Live harp music for any occasion. Harp doctorate, U-M. Flute and Harp Duo also available. Call Laurel at 663–9292.

Elegant Jazz for All Occasions
(313) 665–0374

Classical/Flamenco guitar—Add spice to your celebration. Joseph, 769–1574.

HAVE HARP WILL TRAVEL
Quality work at reasonable rates
Call Rochelle, (313) 475–1660.

INTRADA
Professional woodwind quintet for weddings, receptions, parties, etc. Classical to popular music. 994–5457.

★ WIQB'S CARY CARRINGTON ★
Disc jockey for all occasions. Music 40s–90s. Call (313) 747–8696.

Ann Arbor Federation of Musicians—Professional musicians and groups for any occasion. Free referrals or list of groups and soloists. 668–8041.

LIVE MUSIC
For all occasions. **Espresso** plays great music for dancing and listening. Jazz, Motown, Classic Rock, and more. Call David, 439–2151, for tape and song list.

★ SOLSTICE ★
Rock, Reggae and Jazz
Professional Duo/Trio - All Occasions
In/Outdoor Parties - Reasonable Rates
Tom Fivenson 769–0871

TERRABELLA TRIO
Elegant music featuring flute, violin, and cello. Call 677–4780.

Bryan C. Springer

Lessons & Workshops

The Classifieds deadline for the September issue is August 11.

Brazilian Portuguese for business or travel. Rapid, all levels. 485–3842.

CONCERT PIANIST Waleed Howrani taking intermed.-adv. students. 663–3221.

Ceramics Classes—Pottery, tiles, sculpture. Call Diane, 996–3949.

Ann Arbor School of Massage and Bodywork
Barry Ryder, Director
State-licensed Massage Programs
Call for a brochure: 662–1572.

Turning Memories Into Memoirs! Learn proven story-telling techniques and gain confidence to write your family life story. All levels. Last workshop of summer. 741–0454.

NATURAL SCIENCE
Programs and Field Trips.
Lisa Lava-Kellar, Naturalist, 663–9661.

Accent reduction for foreign-born professionals. Rapid method. 485–3842.

MASTERING MEDITATION: A 3-week introductory program. Basic techniques of relaxation and meditation; self-improvement. Offered free of charge by the Sri Chinmoy Centre, 994–7114.

★ Divorce Adjustment Group ★
Professionally led, ongoing therapy/support group for men and women experiencing any phase of divorce. The Counseling Center, 761–7204 or CCAAemail@aol.com.

PIANO & VOICE LESSONS
Complete theory, technique, and aural skill development. A wholistic, sound therapy approach for all ages and levels. Stephannie Piro, 996–9114.

ANN ARBOR AREA PIANO TEACHERS GUILD offers placement with qualified, professional piano teachers.
All levels and ages, 665–5346.

PIANO LESSONS
ALL AGES, ALL LEVELS
Prof. musician on Steinway upright in west-side home. U-M School of Music grad. Reasonable fee and flexible arrangements. Marian Stolar, 761–7384.

Voice Lessons for Non-Singers and Singers—Experienced teacher, personal expression focus, group and individual lessons. Kathleen Moore, 668–8146.

★ FIDDLE LESSONS ★
Beginners & up. (313) 662–0879.

SCULPTING THE HUMAN FIGURE: experience the joy of modeling in clay. Summer and fall classes taught by int'l. exhibiting artist, Jane Bunge Noffke, 668–0327.

CREATIVE PIANO
Learn improv skills, play by ear, learn techniques that work. Laura, 971–6627.

Tarot/Psychic Development class. Fun, excellent results, 6 Mondays. **Find Your Magical Path** class. Intro theory and practice, 6 Wednesdays. Classes start week of August 4; taught by professional with 25 yrs.' experience in shamanic, Inkan, and European traditions. Mateyo, 663–5505.

Introductory Meditation Course
5 Thurs. eves., begins 9/11.
Yoga Course 6 Tues. eves., 9/9.
Public Services - all welcome.
Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Zen Buddhist Temple, Ann Arbor
(313) 761–6520. 1214 Packard.

Piano/guitar lessons. You've promised yourself for long enough. Now call Penni at 973–6879. Double-degreed performer in Pittsfield area. Adults pampered.

For Sale

Vacation Bahamas 5-day/4-night cruise. Airfare not included. $750. (313) 769–6217 (for two).

Miscellaneous

Are you new in town? Ready to get out, meet new people, and involve yourself in the community? **The Ann Arbor Jaycees are for you!** As a leadership training organization for adults ages 21–39, we offer you the chance to improve yourself and your community while making new friends and having fun. Come see what we are about at our meeting on the first Thursday of each month, room 101, Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., Washtenaw Community College at 7:30 p.m., or call 913–9629.

LOTUS BED & BREAKFAST—Fireplace and private baths. Monroe, (313) 384–9914. AAA rated.

TRILLIUM TREASURES is now native-owned, selling beadwork, pow-wow cards, and dreamcatchers. 997–7111.

Services

The Classifieds deadline for the September issue is August 11.

Personalized Computer Tutoring
House calls • Affordable rates
Set-up & Installation
Coaching • Consulting • Diagnostics
Macintosh • DOS • Windows
Call Dan, (313) 769–2082.

★ WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY ★
Enhancing the Pleasure of Your Celebration
LIZ BRAUER PHOTOGRAPHY
★ (313) 662–9012 ★

Need help with all those personal errands you cannot get to? Call LTH Services, 995–5582.

★ Sandi's Word Processing ★
"Resume Specialist" . laser . edit . fax . business . legal . academic. 426–5217

THE GREAT COVER UP
Upholstery/Refinishing
Call Amy, 480–2308

Adult Survivors of Sexual Abuse—Group Openings for Women. Contact Lisa C. Wolf, M.A. (313) 930–0864.

ACCURATE PSYCHIC—Answers your questions from practical/personal to metaphysical. Romance, finance, past lives, karmic lessons; messages from guides, angels, departed loved ones. Individuals, groups, parties, and events by appointment. Call Nanci Rose Gerler, **Crystal Clear Expressions,** (313) 996–8799.

TREE & HEDGE TRIMMING
Lot clearing, lawn mowing,
storm damage, roofing.
DAKOTA HANDYMAN can do it!
Call (313) 481–3347

CLASSIFIEDS

Linda's wholesome home child care—infants to 6 yrs., licensed, experienced, vegetarian, TV free. Emphasizing: nature, creativity, self-esteem, loving kindness. (313) 994–3745.

★ MASSAGE THERAPY★
Experience rejuvenation and deep relaxation.
Call Christine Lark, 996–1455.

Abandon your search and let's not be sexist—call **Pete the Dustman** for your housecleaning chores. Bonded and insured. 761–7565.

★ WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY ★
Experienced professional; personal service and reasonable rates. You own and keep the negatives! For information:
Jim Kruz, 668–6988

Foreign Videotape Conversion
Ann Arbor Electronics
665–5788

★ Construction Debris—Recycled ★
Roofing, lumber, carpeting, and misc.
TRC HAULING, 665–6895

Calligraphy by John Bullard, 475–7364. Weddings, poems, certificates, gifts.

★★ Kristy Communications ★★
Offering public relations, grant proposal, and general writing support.
(313) 480–1145.

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Old world craftsmanship, sensible prices. Installation, repair. 528–TILE (8453).

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Confidential referrals to caring, compassionate, and professional licensed therapists experienced with your problem.
Call us—we can help.
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Ann Arbor Computer Imaging
663–4898 dissertations • theses
graphics • dependability • value

★ Household Debris—Recycled ★
Appliances, furniture, brush, and misc.
TRC HAULING, 665–6895

★★ HOUSECLEANING ★★
Ann Arbor's finest. Experienced. References. Cleaning tailored to meet your individual needs. Call 434–1674.

Adult males sexually abused as children. Indiv. and grp. therapy, sliding scale. Call Rick Reinsmith, MA, LLP, at 677–3233 or Ian MacGregor, ACSW, at 973–2750.

★ SHIATSU MINI-MASSAGE ★
Relax, enjoy a stress-reducing $5 mini-massage at Main Street News. 327–2122

GAY MEN'S THERAPY GROUP
Contact Robert Dargel, MSW, ACSW, at (313) 996–0918. Insurance okay.

CRITTER CARE
Pet Care When You Can't Be There
Kristina Taylor
(313) 747–8259

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Landscaping, minor construction, painting, and installations. 662–7525.

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Do it yourself & save, new or repairs
Ann Arbor, 325–2250

★★ HYPNOSIS ★★
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For stress management/relaxation and other life concerns. B. Hutton, LLPC, MA. Certified hypnotherapist. 484–1464.

"A Course in Miracles" study groups. For info. call Barbara McLeroy, 668–7329.

★ EXPERT RÉSUMÉS ★
For the perfect document
at a reasonable price! 994–6177

Looking for a therapist? Check **The Michigan Mental Health Networker** at http://www.concentric.net/~mhnet or the Ann Arbor Public Library R362.2McP

SPANISH TUTOR
Native speaker. $15/hr. 741–4943.

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Custom fabrication, welding, soldering, all types of steel and cast metal, auto restoration, and rust repair.
Call John, **(313) 480–0289.**

ARTESIAN MUSIC STUDIO: Beginning voice, strings, piano. 213–8442.

Women: Stay Healthy!
Concise, current newsletter links gynecology concerns to psychological needs. Produced in Ann Arbor; national subscriptions by the Counseling Center. For subscription or free issue: 761–7204; CCAAemail@aol.com; $14.95. Four quarterly issues, each on a new topic.

★ WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY ★
Candid, natural wedding photography by an experienced professional. Individualized services to meet your specific needs. No rigid "packages." Natural light/studio portraiture.
995–0760 **David Koether** 995–0760

Therapeutic Massage $25/hr. AAIMT Student Clinic. Call for appointment. Gift certificates available. 677–4430.

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Pet-sitting service
Dependable, insured, caring individual.
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Full, Part-Time, or Live-In.
Personal Care, Companionship
Insured, Bonded
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Stacey Aksman, Nat'ly Certified
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★ THERAPY ★
Heal your body, heart, and mind using discussion, movement, and meditation. Call Cynthia Gormley, MSW, 930–1858.

★★ Considering Psychotherapy? ★★
Confidential, free info. E-mail your concerns: CCAAemail@aol.com, The Counseling Center.

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Lawn mowing, edging, light hauling.
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AdVentures - Summer Spa Sampler - Get a haircut & design, mini HiLites, tanning session, makeover, & much more, all for $40. Call 429–1163.

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★ WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY ★
Have your wedding or commitment ceremony documented by a professional with 10 yrs.' experience. B&W a specialty. Beautiful handmade albums also available. Call **Linda Wan at 663–7069.**

Wanted

Old Oriental rugs. Any kind, size, or condition. 663–7607.

Used Books Wanted for fall book sale. Sponsored by AAUW. Dropoffs accepted at Eberwhite School Mondays 12:30–3:30 p.m., Thursdays 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. No textbooks. For pickup, phone 973–6287.

Cash paid for old Oriental rugs. Navajo, tapestry. Any size, condition. 769–8555.

Amateur glamour models wanted for amateur photographer. $35–$50 per hr. Call (313) 971–2373 or leave message.

TRILLIUM TREASURES needs fall clothing for resale. Clean your closets, then call 997–7111.

CANOES NEEDED for Girl Scout troop. Any size, style, or condition. Also need oars and life vests (adult & child sizes). Would you like to make a tax-deductible donation, sell for cheap, or loan for summer? Please call 429–2815.

Life cast models wanted: both male and female. Athletic with great muscular definition, weight lifter build. $50–$75 per hour. 747–6307.

TV - VCR - stereo technician wanted. Will pay by hour or by unit. 665–5788.

Men ages 21–45. Earn $10–$20 participating in U-M study on romantic relationships. 763–0063.

Marketing Dept. position available—Computer, word processing, and English skills required for work on product catalog. Approximately 30 hrs./week, flexible time, temporary. Call Amy Boyd at Whedco, (313) 665–5473.

Laptop Computer NAC model 2435 w/28.8 modem, 1.1 G HD, 32 mb mem., & case. $2,500. Call anytime (313) 675–4428.

Ann Arbor Observer Classifieds/Personals Form

Reach over 129,000 readers

Mail or bring this form to: 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 or Fax (313) 769-3375.
Please include payment of check, cash, Visa, or MC.

SEPTEMBER DEADLINE—AUGUST 11

RATES & GUIDELINES FOR CLASSIFIEDS AND PERSONALS
- Each letter, punctuation mark, and word space counts as a box. Capital letters use two boxes.
- Average 36 characters per line.
- Use only standard abbreviations.
- Move word to the next line if it does not fit completely at the end of a line.
- Ads will run in the next open issue.
- **For Classifieds Only—**
- $5.50 per line, or fraction of a line, per insertion. 2 line minimum.
- **For Personals Only—**
- All ads are assigned a single number for Personal Call and written responses.
- An instruction sheet for Personal Call will be mailed to the advertiser.
- Written responses will be forwarded to the advertiser up to one year after the ad appears in print.
- Ads must be submitted in writing by the deadline. **No phone calls please.**
- **First four lines are free** for singles seeking relationship in the personals, $5.50 each additional line. The following exceptions will be charged **full price** of $5.50 per line:
  - Ads requesting written responses.
  - Ads placed by phone.
  - Businesses and organizations.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____

❑ PLEASE CHARGE MY: ❑ VISA ❑ MASTERCARD ❑ CHECK ENCLOSED
ACCOUNT NUMBER _____
EXP. DATE _____
SIGNATURE _____

PERSONALS— (See ad on page 77 for detailed information on placing or responding to a personal ad.)
All Classified and Personal Ads will automatically appear on our Web page, www.arborweb.com

CHECK APPROPRIATE PERSONALS CATEGORY
❑ Women Seeking Men ❑ Women Seeking Women ❑ Friendships
❑ Men Seeking Women ❑ Men Seeking Men ❑ General Personals

FIRST FOUR LINES FREE
NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL LINES _____
X $5.50 PER LINE _____
TOTAL $ _____

CLASSIFIEDS—
RUN AD IN:

JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	NUMBER OF LINES _____
APR.	MAY	JUNE	X $5.50 PER LINE _____
JULY	AUG.	SEP.	X # OF MONTHS _____
OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	TOTAL $ _____

CHECK APPROPRIATE CLASSIFIEDS CATEGORY
❑ SERVICES ❑ ENTERTAINMENT ❑ WANTED ❑ FOR SALE
❑ LESSONS & WORKSHOPS ❑ REAL ESTATE ❑ MISCELLANEOUS

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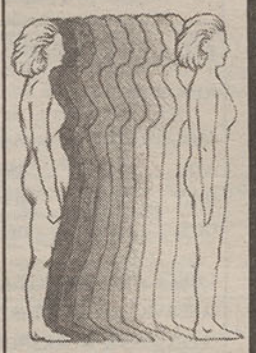

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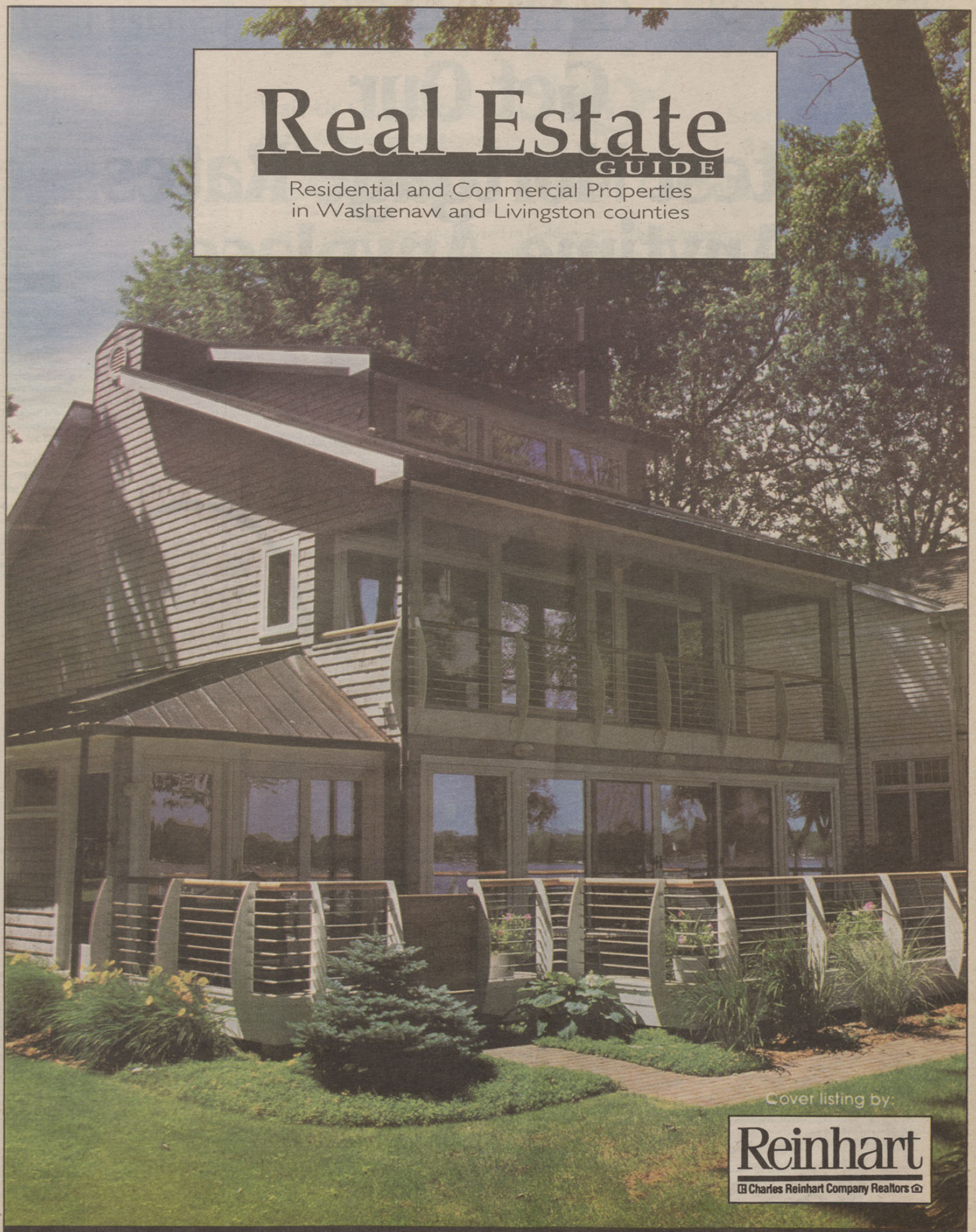

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Front Cover: This incredible lakefront home has top-of-the-line features, plus state-of-the-art computerization throughout. It is offered by the Charles Reinhart Company, Realtors.
Cover photo by J. Adrian Wylie.

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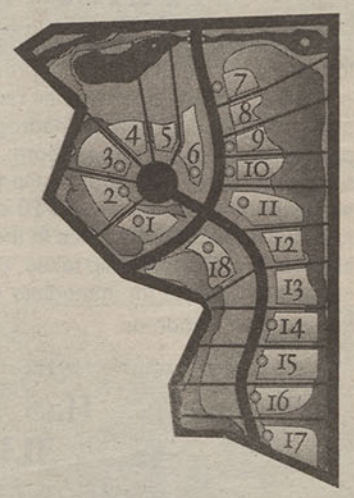

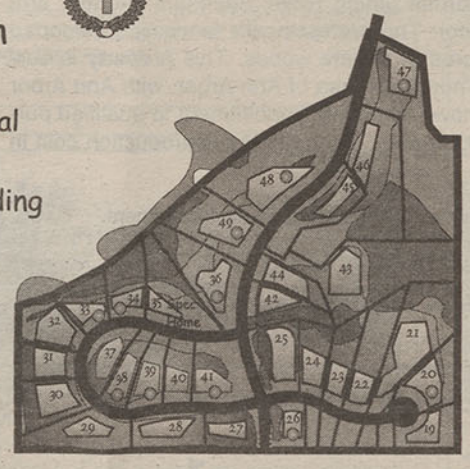

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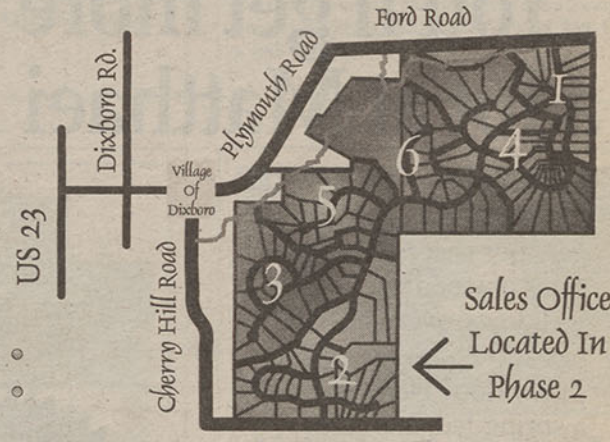

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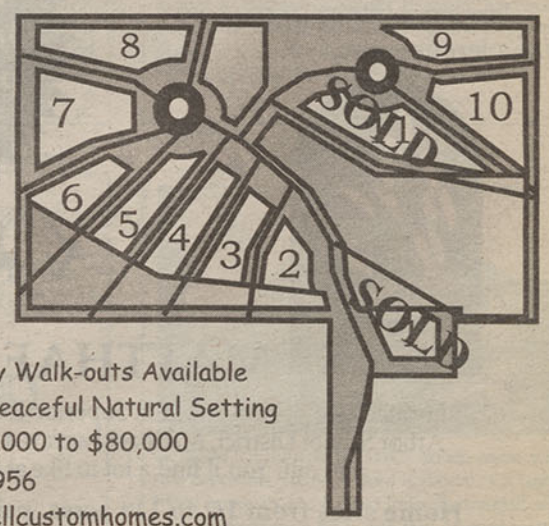

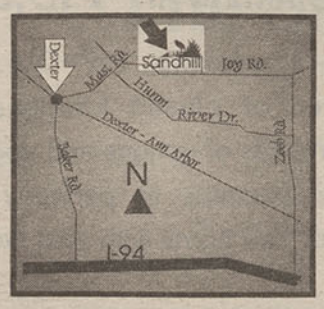

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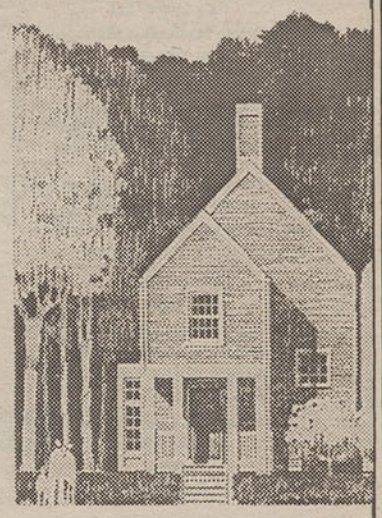

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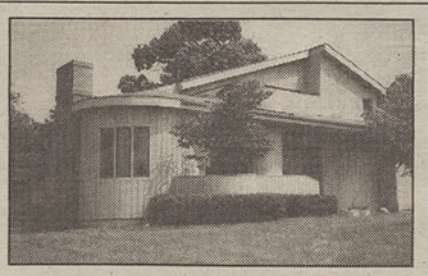

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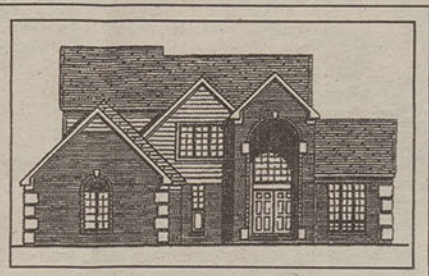

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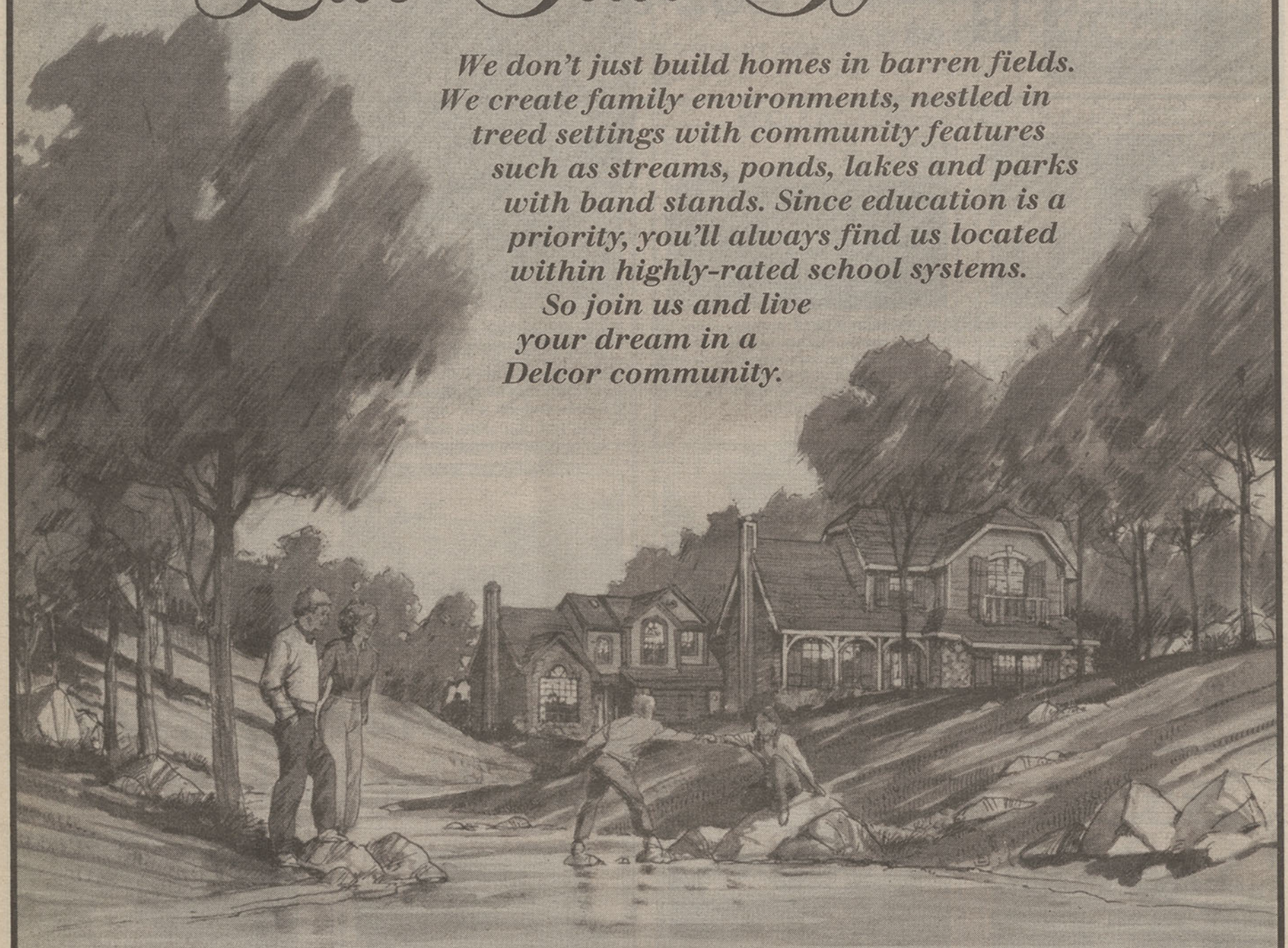

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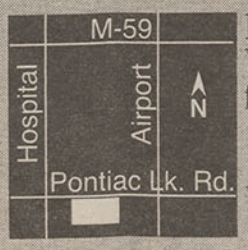

Lake Forest Village from the $140's

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Country French Estates from the $160's to the $220's

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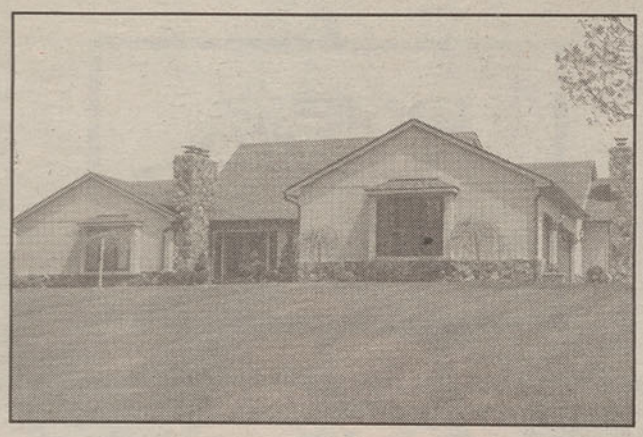

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A must see, one-of-a-kind Cape Cod with walk-out lower level to private lake. Custom decorating features throughout this exceptional home situated on a 10 acre wooded lot. Outstanding features include luxurious master bedroom and bath located on first floor, NFP in study and family room, formal dining room, spacious kitchen with eating area, marble and carpet floors. All this with sun deck at water's edge and swim platform, on a professionally landscaped lot. This property is surrounded by exclusive homes, with Ann Arbor schools and low township taxes. Shown by private appointment. Best land and home deal in Washtenaw County. Priced below value at:

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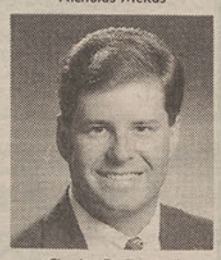
David Kersch



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Rapid Reply™ Program

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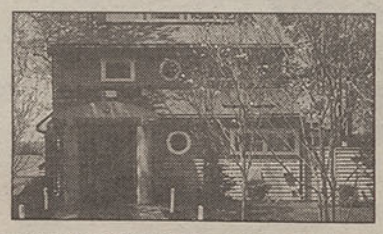
Exceptional Properties



SEEN ON COVER. Incredible custom home. Beautiful lakefront lot. Copper roof, exercise room, master with loft, wide-plank maple floors, granite counters. Completely computerized. **$750,000.**
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GORGEOUS 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath contemporary in Newport Hills. Wonderful floor plan. Large finished bonus room off fourth bedroom. Full walkout plumbed for 2 baths. Quality finishes throughout. Landscaped lot. **$439,000.**
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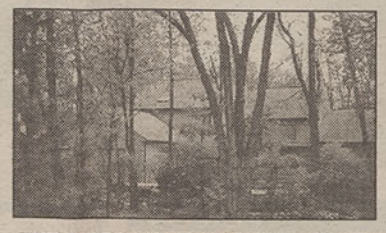

THE WOODLANDS! 3-5 bedroom, 3.5 bath contemporary on wooded 1+ acre lot. Top-of-the-line kitchen, finished walkout lower level, extensive decking with hot tub. 3-car garage. **$699,000.**
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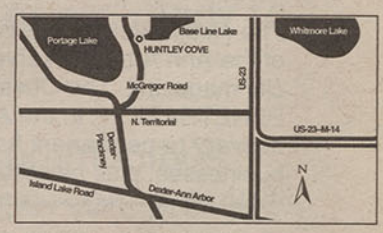

WATERFRONT LOTS with gorgeous views of Base Line Lake. 800' of frontage framed by trees! Sixteen acres of development, 8 sites. Conservation area—unspoiled woodlands. **$175,000 to $225,000.**
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where Country Club living is a matter of course.

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Located in Ann Arbor one mile south of I–94. Follow Zeeb Road to Liberty. Go east on Liberty to the entrance to The Ponds at The Polo Fields.

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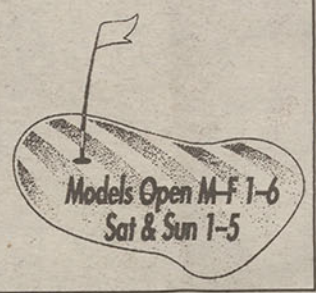
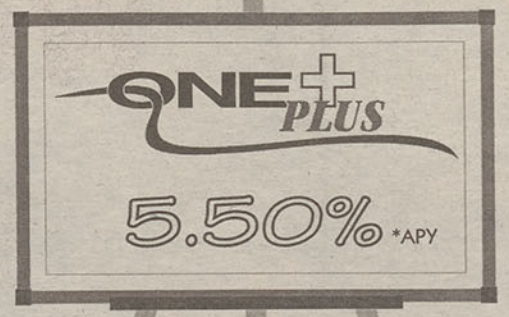
Also: The Fairways at The Polo Fields
Sneak Preview from the $220's



BRG CUSTOM HOMES
BRG HOMES

"Unveiling our latest gallery addition"



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Real Estate GUIDE

Residential and Commercial Properties in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties

Circulation: **65,000**

Ann Arbor Observer: **60,000**

The *Real Estate Guide* is inserted in 60,000 copies of the Ann Arbor Observer, Ann Arbor's monthly city magazine. The Observer offers 100% MARKET PENETRATION* in the Ann Arbor area, including delivery to permanent households and area businesses, plus newsstand and subscription sales.

*Circulation Audit: Certified Audit of Circulations, March 1997

Distribution locations: **5,000**

The *Real Estate Guide* is also distributed as a separate publication at locations throughout Washtenaw and Livingston counties, including:

- *Real Estate Offices*
- *Banks*
- *Hotels*
- *Retail Centers*
- *Convenience Stores*
- *Chamber of Commerce Offices*
- *Restaurants*
- *University Offices*
- *Grocery Stores*
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SEPTEMBER ISSUE
Publication date: August 25

For advertising information, call (313) 769–3175

Ann Arbor Observer

201 Catherine Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-1426 Phone (313) 769–3175, FAX (313) 769–3375
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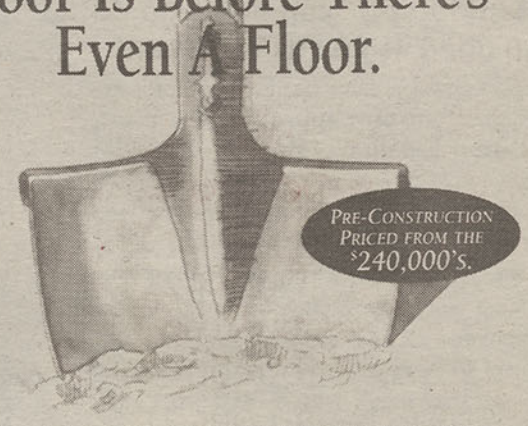
The Best Time To Get In On The Ground Floor Is Before There's Even A Floor.



Getting into the home and community of your dreams is often a matter of timing. And when the price has nowhere to go but up, the earlier the better. Right now you can take advantage of low blueprint pricing at Woodcreek. We're just getting started on luxurious single-family homes tucked into a picturesque setting near the Huron River. Now is the time to get the best price and your choice of the best homesites. Just think. The design mastery and attention to detail that has made Cohen Associates one of southeast Michigan's most acclaimed builders. The value you've been waiting for in a great Ann Arbor location. We urge you to act now. Before the ground floor is no more.

WOODCREEK

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arborweb, Ann Arbor's home on the web, is the place to go to buy or sell your home. Our ***FREE*** on-line Classifieds let you pore through the latest housing listings or post your own entry in cyberspace. Be sure to check out Ann Arbor's daily ever-changing marketplace at **arborweb.com**.

Our comprehensive Classifieds listings feature a wide variety of available living arrangements—from 5-acre real estate sales in the country to 3-week apartment sublets downtown. If you are looking for the home of your dreams or are ready to move on, **arborweb.com** is for you. And remember it's ***FREE***.

For over twenty years, the Ann Arbor Observer has served as the community's authority on how to live. Now **arborweb**, a new division of the Observer, provides an easy way to learn more about local neighborhoods, restaurants, schools, and parking through our invaluable on-line City Guide.

Welcome to the neighborhood—welcome to **arborweb.com**!

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A division of the Ann Arbor Observer

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◆ CONDOMINIUMS ◆

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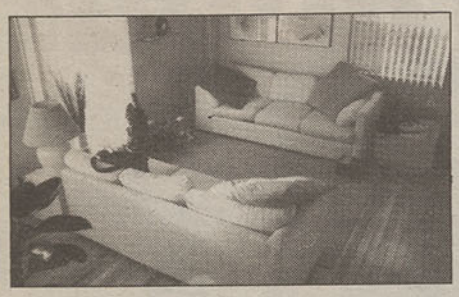
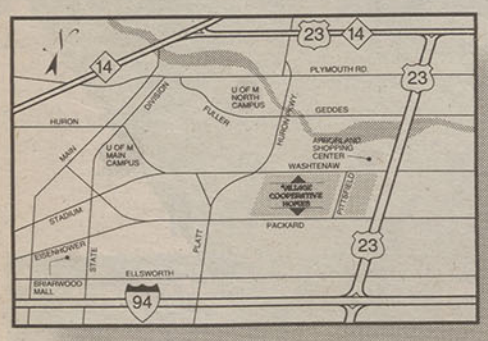


Consider ownership of a beautiful, vintage townhome at The Village. Have the privacy of your own affordable home conveniently located within minutes of downtown Ann Arbor. The Village is situated on attractively landscaped grounds, featuring swimming pool, tennis court and more!



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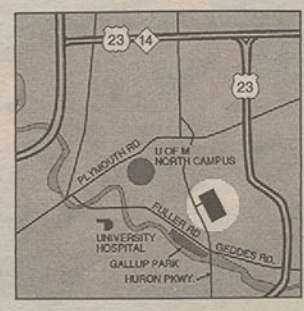
Quiet, Quiet, Quiet

Nestled among hills, woods and ponds in a natural setting unduplicated anywhere else in Ann Arbor you will find Geddes Lake. You will also find the kind of quiet that you thought only comes with living in the country. Yet Geddes Lake offers a location in the midst of one of Ann Arbor's most desirable residential locations. Truly an oasis in an urban setting, an oasis filled with flowers, trees, birds, and peace and quiet.



When you come home to Geddes Lake, you come home to surroundings that immediately transport you to another, less stressful, way of living. After a hard day's work, refresh yourself with a swim in the pool, play a game of tennis, walk or ride your bike through some of the best scenery in Ann Arbor — right in your own neighborhood. At Geddes Lake, you're just 1/2 mile from Gallup Park, where you can enjoy a canoe ride, run the trails, fish, or just soak up the great views.

Geddes Lake offers all the advantages of a well-planned townhouse community plus the benefits of home ownership in a thriving market-rate cooperative. Come home to the quiet of Geddes Lake.

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Conveniently located on Ann Arbor's desirable northeast side. Off Huron Parkway between Plymouth Road and Geddes Road.

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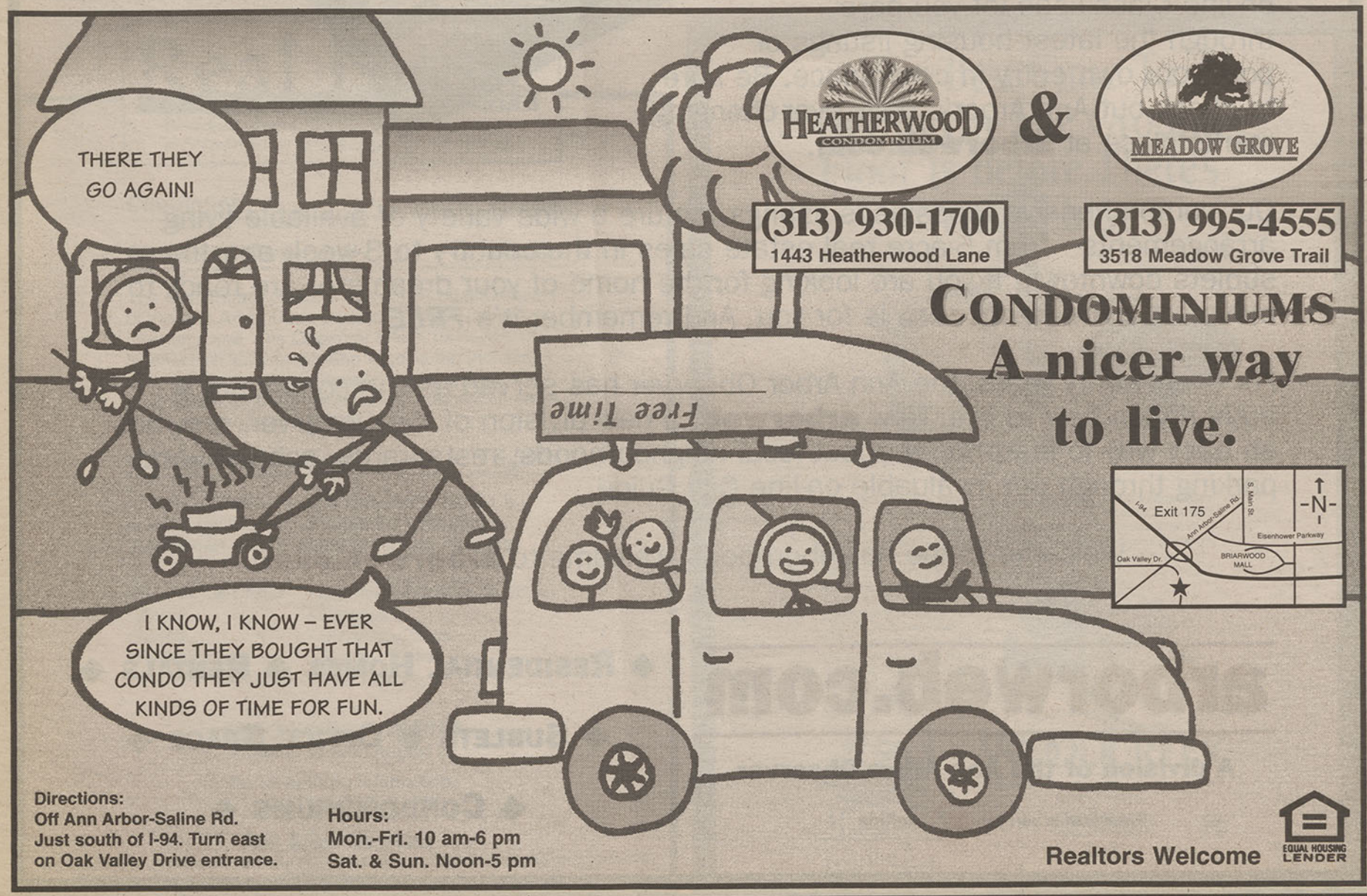
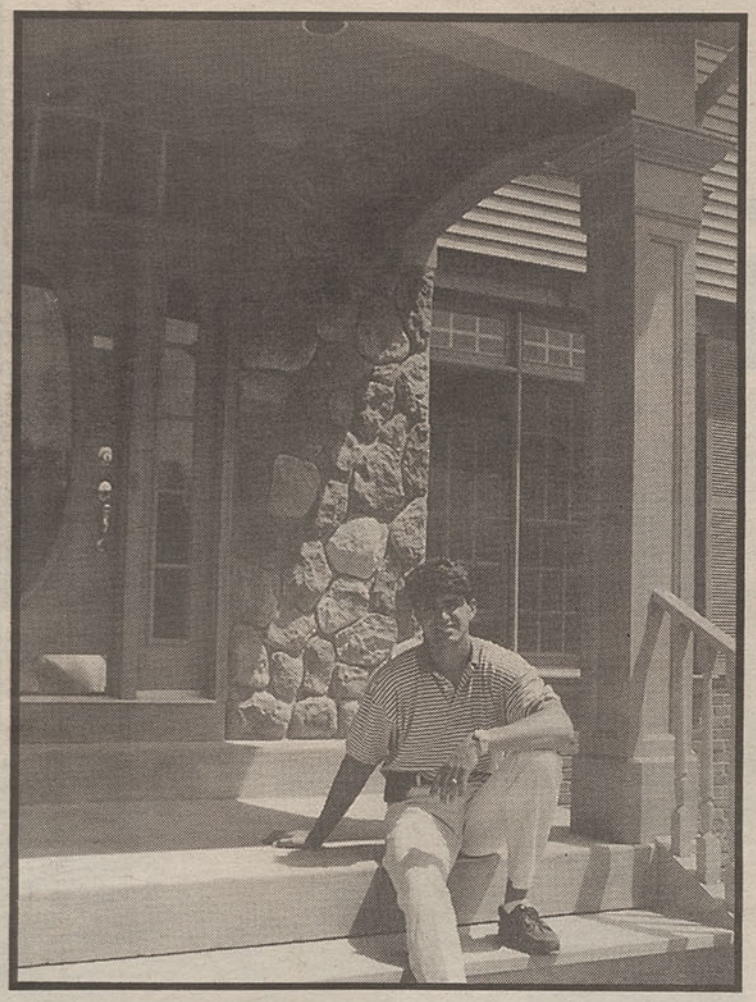
GEDDES LAKE COOPERATIVE HOMES, INC.
3000 LAKEHAVEN DRIVE · ANN ARBOR, MI 48105





"We have been advertising in the Ann Arbor Observer for many years for the simple reason that our customers read it. When the Observer created its Real Estate Guide, the opportunity for us only became better because now the Observer has a space in every issue that spotlights homes and developments. Our customers, who already read the Observer, now look to the Real Estate Guide to help them find the development for their next home. For us, the Ann Arbor Observer Real Estate Guide is the place where we can advertise our developments and our custom home building services–the place that we know our advertising will be seen."

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Real Estate
GUIDE
Residential and Commercial Properties
in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties

DISTINCTIVE

Designed by Albert Kahn and built in 1913, this home is an Ann Arbor landmark. Its distinguished address and two-acre setting put it in a class by itself. Five-seven bedrooms, 6-1/2 baths, grand living and dining rooms and everything one would expect from one of America's noted architects. $970,000. Nancy Bishop, 761-6600 days/ 663-9201 eves.

HOMES

Perched high on a hill, this stately, brick, traditional residence in Ann Arbor has it all! Grand foyer, elegant living room with room for two grand pianos, formal dining room, family room, study, sunroom, four bedrooms, 4-1/2 baths, fireplaces, separate au pair quarters. $830,000. Nancy Bishop, 761-6600 days/663-9201 eves. 73711.

from

Gracious, two-story Ann Arbor Hills home features bright Florida room with built-ins and fireplace, second floor skylights and remodeled kitchen with island and Grabill cabinets. Four bedrooms, four baths, including two master suites. $535,000. Dianne Harrison, 665-9800 days/662-9277 eves. 73764.

EDWARD

Geddes Arboretum - unique house with substantial gardens and attached greenhouse adjoining Arboretum. Recently renovated, maple kitchen, four bedrooms, study, three baths, slate floors and baronial living room with fireplace. A rare offering. $420,000. Grant Moore, 971-3333 days/ 996-2468 eves. 74193.

SUROVELL

Striking, brick transitional home on an exceptional lot in Ann Arbor's Wines School area. This four-bedroom, 2-1/2-bath two-story features a magnificent master suite, hardwood floors, front and back staircases, walk-out lower level and a great deck to enjoy the beautiful, treed yard. $409,000. Candy Mitchell, 971-3333 days/663-8676 eves. 74535.

For further information regarding these distinguished residences or other executive homes available in the Greater Ann Arbor and Jackson areas, please call any Edward Surovell office or Dianne Harrison, Relocation Coordinator, 1886 West Stadium Boulevard, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, (313) 665-9800.

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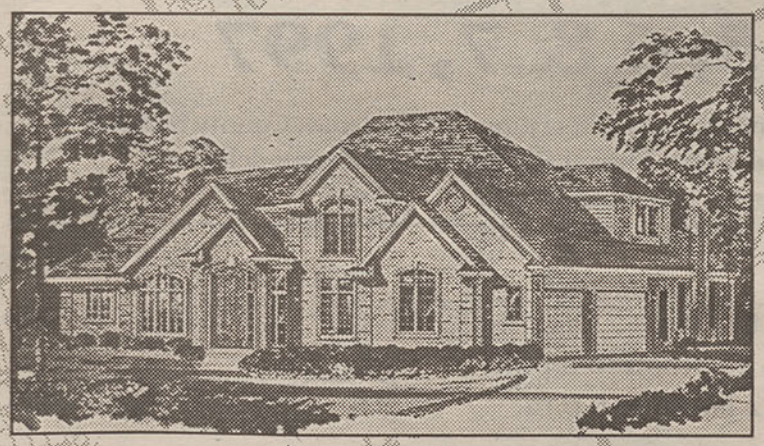

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UPGRADES GALORE! This house has it all. Four bedrooms, with his and hers vanity. A kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances. A treed backyard with a deck to relax on. This is a tasteful home. Immaculate! $160's. (ROO321). **KIMBERLY HANSCHU** 998-0900 ext. 215.

CLASSIC CONTEMPORARY in Ann Arbor Hills with sophisticated gourmet kitchen. Copious built-ins. Finished lower level good potential "alternative" space. Four porch/deck/patio relaxation options. 3,000 sq. ft. $415,000. (GLE224). **LAUREN HELWIG** 913-0937

WOW! Plenty of space in this farmhouse ca. 1890/1970. Four beds, 2 full baths, lovingly restored. Bring your refurbishing touch to this 2,200 sq. ft. home on 3/4 acre. In area of high-priced homes 25 minutes from Ann Arbor. $142,000. (BUR407). **LAUREN HELWIG** 913-0937.

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REMODELORS® HOME TOUR

September 5, 6 & 7, 1997

The Remodelors® Council of the Home Builders Association of Washtenaw County is proud to present 14 professionally remodeled homes for you to tour. Meet the remodelers and make plans for your own remodeling and renovation projects.

Tour Times:

Friday, September 5th - 2 to 8 p.m.
Saturday, September 6th - 12 Noon to 6 p.m.
Sunday, September 7th -12 Noon to 6 p.m.

Tickets:

Tickets are $6 each for adults, children 16 and under are free. Tickets are sold at all tour homes and may be used during the entire show. Advance tickets are available at this years' sponsors: Anderson Paint Co., Fingerle Lumber Co., and Great Lakes National Bank.

14 Homes For You To Tour:

1. **Valley Builders, Inc.** - master suite/garage addition
2. **Washtenaw Woodwrights, Inc.** - entire home remodel
3. **Staples Building Co.** - family room/study addition
4. **Acheson Builders, Inc.** - master suite addition
5. **Custom Construction Co.** - farmhouse renovation
6. **Cardea Construction Co.** - kitchen remodel
7. **LaRoe Residential Remodeling Inc.** - kitchen/family room remodel
8. **JJ's Home Improvements** - basement remodel
9. **Homeowner Services of America (HSA)** - house/2nd story addition
10. **Willow Building Co.** - family room/master suite addition/2nd story
11. **Rochman Design-Build** - entire home remodel
12. **Arbor Valley Building & Development Co.** - kitchen/sunroom remodel
13. **Arbor Construction & Development** - master bath addition/chalet renovation
14. **Michael A. Rogers Bldg. & Home Improvements** - 2nd floor addition/sunroom

Watch the mail for your complete tour book featuring each individual project with addresses and maps.

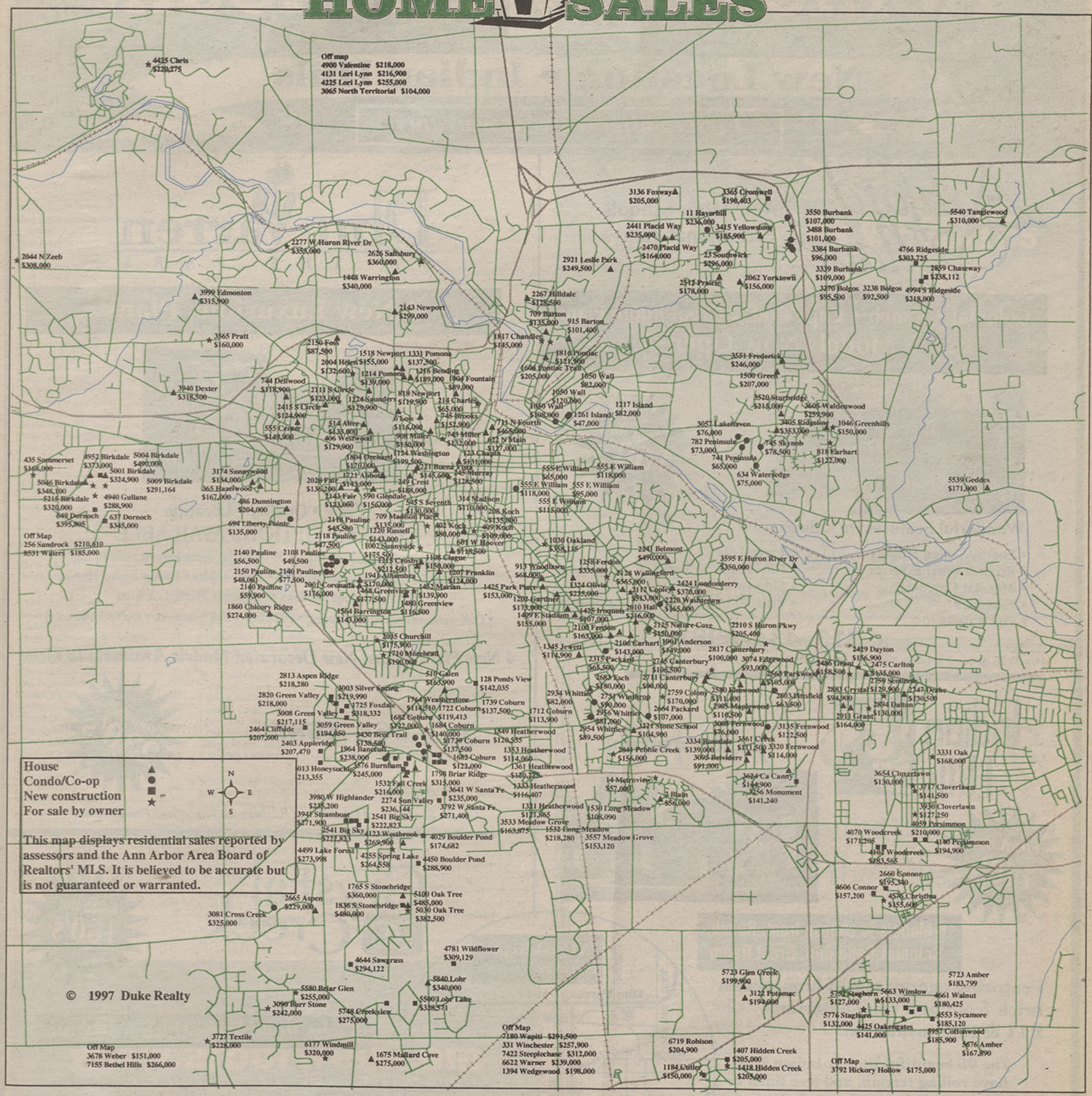
WASHTENAW REMODELORS COUNCIL

HBA HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF WASHTENAW COUNTY

Questions: 313/996-0100
Home Builders Association of Washtenaw County

JUNE 1997

HOME SALES



Home sales jumped 20 percent in June compared to the same month last year, with a total of 297 sales. Yet new construction declined by 18 percent—only 58 new homes sold compared to 71 a year ago. What's going on? Time on the market tells the tale. Resales of single-family homes averaged only 43 days on the market, according to Realtors' reports. But standoffish buyers kept new construction waiting 218 days on average.

Since time is money, builders are impatient for sales. If a $250,000 home is financed at 8 percent, that 218-day wait takes nearly $12,000 out of a builder's paycheck. Buyers sometimes assume that a builder in these circumstances might lower the price to speed things up—but the opposite is usually the case. The price tends to firm up because the builder needs the money more than ever. Instead, as market times stretch out, builders decrease the number of homes built on speculation, concentrating instead on building to suit already contracted buyers.

What difference does a home's location make? 3595 East Huron River Drive sold for a pricey $273 per square foot. It measures just 1,283 square feet (if the finished lower level is written off as a basement instead of living space), but it sold for $350,000—undoubtedly because of its .65-acre site on the South Pond of the Huron River. In terms of water frontage, that's about $1,228 a foot.

711 North Fourth Avenue set a stunning new benchmark in an old residential neighborhood near downtown. This single-family home in the North Central neighborhood was built in 1994. $465,000 bought 3,620 square feet of living space, including 600 in the basement. The lot is just one-fifth the size of its rival on the river, measuring 52 by 149 feet.

—Kevin Duke

Homes by Tri-Mount

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First to offer a 2 year warranty

Ashford Village

Ann Arbor Schools
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Colonial • Ranch • Cape Cod & Great Room Plans
5 Models Now Open

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- City Water & Sewer
- Sidewalks
- Pittsfield Taxes, Ann Arbor Schools

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Handicap Accessible plans Now Available! Off Munger North of Textile

Indian Hills

From the 140's

In Tecumseh

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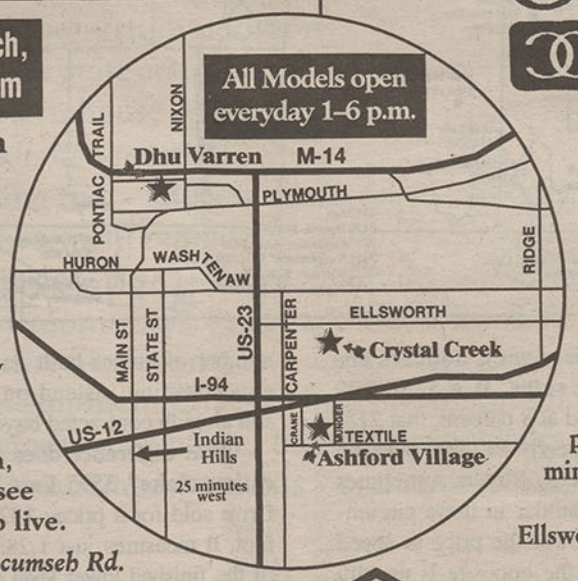

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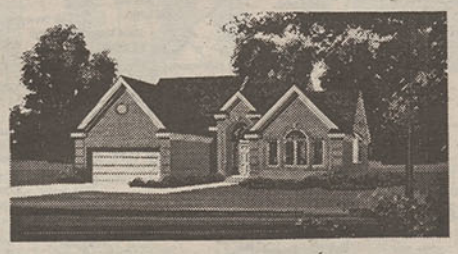

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EVENTS AT A GLANCE

The national touring production of the Obie-winning "Stomp," a nonstop extravaganza of dancing, drumming, jumping, and thumping, stops at the Michigan Theater for 3 days, Aug. 1–3.

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A capsule guide to selected major events in August. See p. 49 for a complete listing of this month's Gallery, Band, and Events reviews. Daily events listings also begin on p. 49.

Classical & Religious Music

- " 'S Wonderful Music" Gershwin concert, Aug. 2
- Pianists Dean Solden & Evan Katz, Aug. 3
- Flutist & piccolo player Leone Buyse, Aug. 7
- The Summer Symphony, Aug. 14
- Maple Hill Park Gospel Sing, Aug. 22–24

Family & Kids' Stuff

- "It's Only Make Believe" (Junior Theater), Aug. 1 & 2
- "Outside the Gate," "The Violinist," and "Hercules Leaves His Mark" (Clearspace Theater), Aug. 1
- "Grease" (Children's Creative Theater), Aug. 1 & 2
- Magic Garden Puppets, Aug. 9
- "Wonderful Town" (Young People's Theater), Aug. 15 & 16

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Waterloo Farm Museum Civil War Encampment, Aug. 1–3
- Dixboro Fair, Aug. 2
- Ann Arbor Cage Bird Club Exotic Bird Exhibition, Aug. 3
- Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice "Come Together for Peace Day," Aug. 6
- Anthroposophical Society of America "Breaking New Ground" performing arts festival, Aug. 7–9
- Waterloo Hunt Club "Dressage," Aug. 8–10
- Old Milan Fest, Aug. 8 & 9
- Dexter Daze, Aug. 8 & 9
- Ypsilanti Heritage Festival, Aug. 15–17
- Ypsilanti Historic Homes Tour, Aug. 17
- Ann Arbor Ski Club Corn Roast, Aug. 24
- Jim Monaghan Antique Engine Show, Aug. 30 & 31
- Old St. Pat's Labor Day Weekend Festival, Aug. 30 & 31
- German Park Picnic, Aug. 30

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- Bethel Quality of Life Resource Center BBQ Fund-raiser, Aug. 22

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- "Anything Goes" (Chelsea Area Players), Aug. 1 & 2
- "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (U-M Basement Arts), Aug. 1–3
- "Off the Map" (Purple Rose Theater), Aug. 1–3, 7–10, 14–17, & 20–23
- National touring production of "Stomp," Aug. 1–3
- "Waiting for Godot" (John Henry Production Group), Aug. 7–10
- "Drop Dead!" (Drake Enterprises/Mercury Theater), Aug. 7–10, 14–17, & 21–24
- Austin Eurythmy Performing Group & Spring Valley Eurythmy, Aug. 8
- Hostia eurythmy troupe with the Detroit Concert Choir, Aug. 9
- New Directors Showcase (P. T. D. Productions), Aug. 9
- Sandy Lawson's one-woman show "Shame on Me," Aug. 22 & 29

Lectures & Readings

- Poets Wanda Olugbala & Aurora Harris, Aug. 9
- Poet Brian Schorn, Aug. 15
- Poet Carmen Bugan, Aug. 19
- Poet Jill Battson, Aug. 19

Pop, Rock, Blues, & Jazz

- P. W. Long's Reelfoot (rock 'n' roll), Aug. 1
- Guy Clark (country singer-songwriter), Aug. 2
- David Wilcox (singer-songwriter), Aug. 7
- Spencer Barefield Quartet (jazz), Aug. 9
- Kelly Willis (country-rock), Aug. 10
- The Drovers (rock 'n' roll), Aug. 13
- 1997 Bob Marley Festival Tour with 20 reggae & worldbeat bands, Aug. 23 & 24
- Moncef Genoud Quartet (jazz), Aug. 27

Ethnic & Traditional Music

- Moving Cloud (Celtic), Aug. 12
- The Black Brothers (Irish), Aug. 14

Comedy & Performance Art

- Comic Jeff Cesario, Aug. 1 & 2
- Comic A. Whitney Brown, Aug. 7–9
- Comic Joel Zimmer, Aug. 14–16
- Comic Elliot Branch, Aug. 21–23
- Comic Kirkland Teeple, Aug. 28
- Comic Tommy Chong, Aug. 29 & 30

Miscellaneous

- Guy Clark Southern Golf Scramble, Aug. 4

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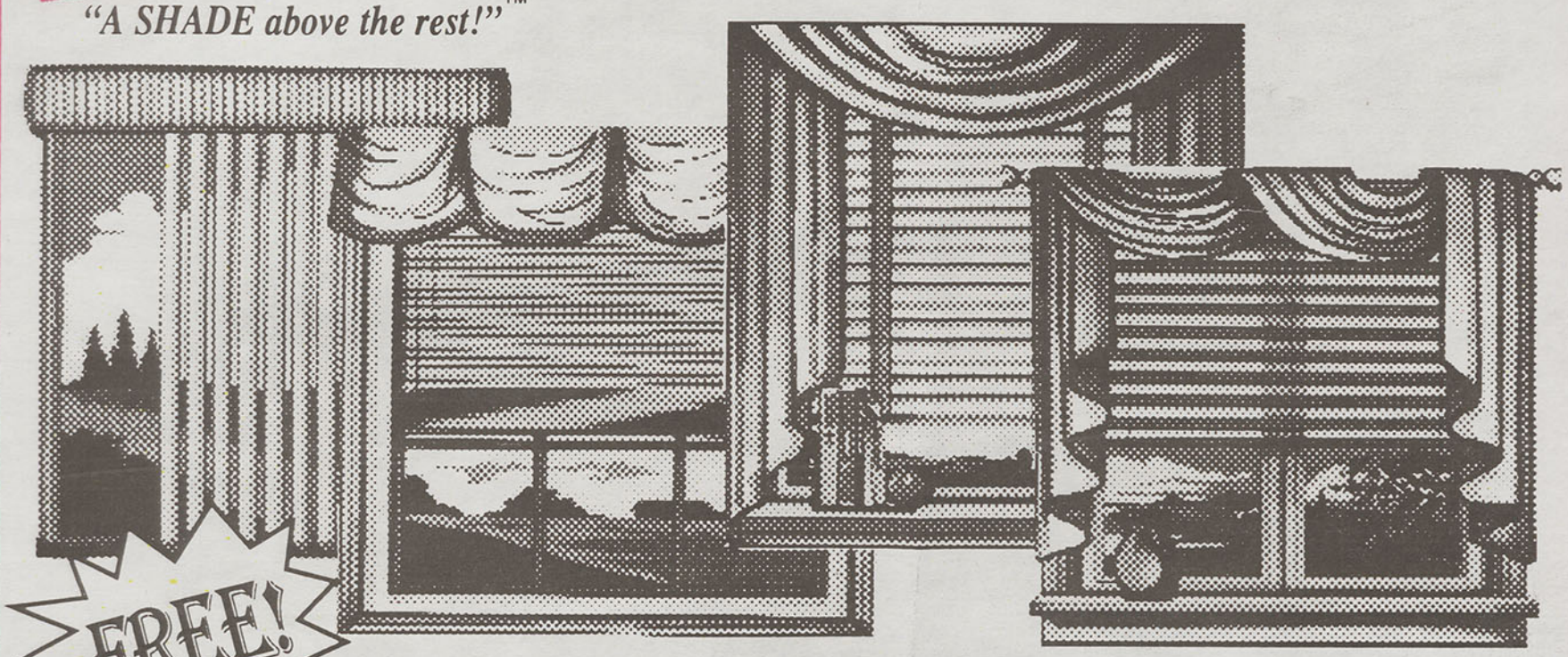

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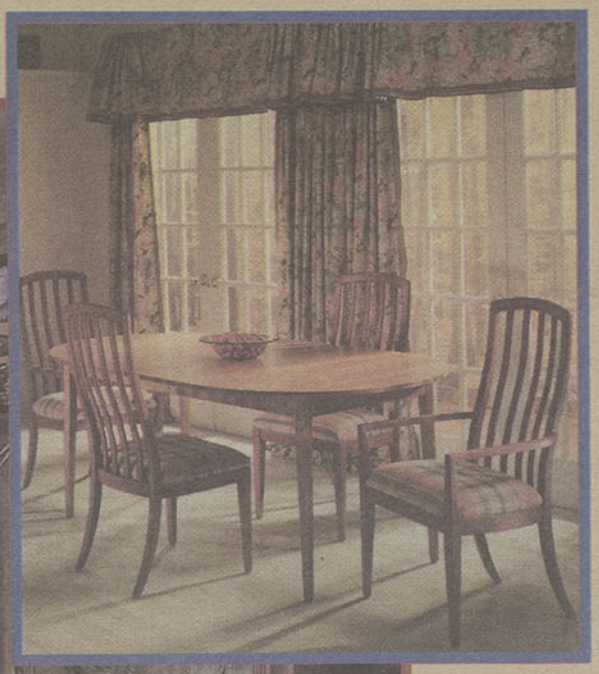

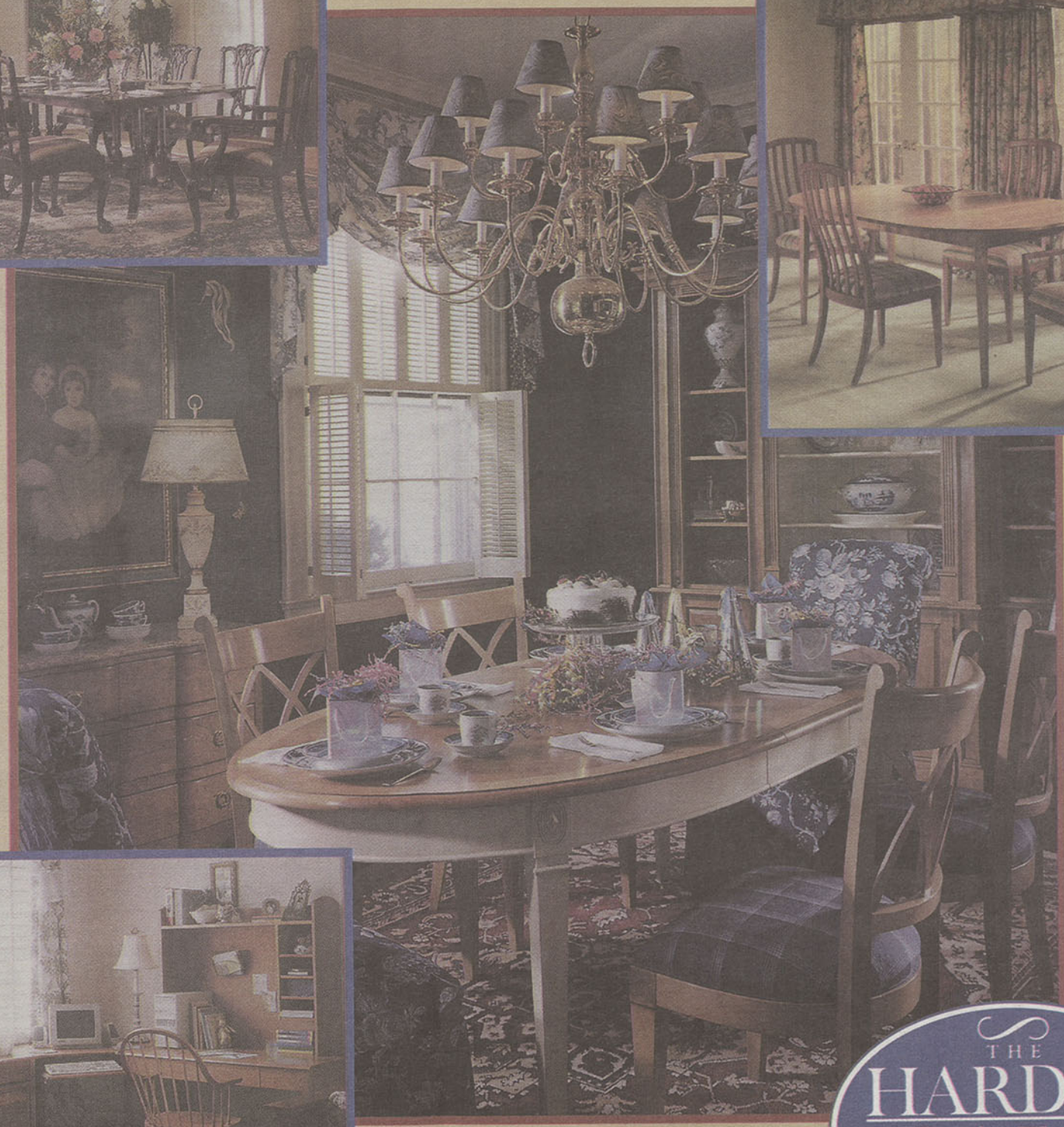

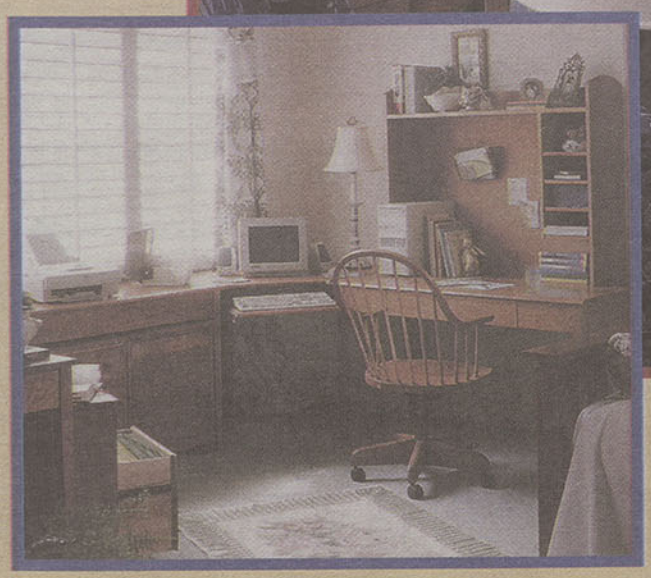

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